

Furor over Oscar snub of Mel Gibson's 'Passion of the Christ'

Congressmen's plans A, B busted; congrats, Senate



Prosecutors blunder at Roldan et al. preliminary probe

Martha Stewart goes home after serving jail term

Dapat bang mag-retiro na ang Santo Papa?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

Assumption honors PDI Chair Marixi Prieto



PRIETO: 'The fruit of charity.'

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer's Chairman of the Board Marixi Rufino Prieto has been named by Assumption College one of three outstanding alumnae, together with Remedios Papa Poblete and the ASSUMPTION/A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Saturday, March 5, 2005 ★★ 84 pages 10 sections Vol. 19 No. 87 P18

House moves to stop word war with Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MEMBERS of the House yesterday tried to douse the fires of battle over the reduced pork barrel allocations in the P907.6-billion national budget passed Tuesday night.

"We want a stop to the word war that they [the HOUSE/A8

Oil price hikes more often

Energy department warns consumers

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH world oil prices surging to unprecedented levels the past week, the energy department has warned motorists and commuters to brace themselves for much more frequent increases in petroleum pump prices.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said international prices had been on an up-trend the past few days, with prices rising to record levels almost overnight every single day.

"Oil has risen to record levels once again overnight. Diesel spot price is now at more than \$65 a barrel. The February average was \$55," Abaya said in a text message yesterday.

Even at these prices, the demand for oil continues to grow, the official noted, and warned that if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were to adjust upward the price band for its basket of crude—from the current between \$22 and \$28 per barrel—domestic pump prices could go further up.

"The local oil industry and the public better be ready to accept these new price levels. Right now, the local market is starting to reflect this latest oil price surge abroad," he said.

The regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to a spot price of \$43.90 a barrel on March 3, driving up the March average to \$43.26 a barrel. The February average was only \$39.87 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also climbed to a March average of \$57.65 a barrel, with the March 3 spot price soaring to \$58.89 a barrel.

MOPS-based gasoline averaged only \$54.27 a barrel last month.

Eclipsing all records, MOPS-based diesel surged to a March average of \$65.51 a barrel, almost \$10 higher than the MORE/A8



ACCUSERS AND A SUSPECT. During the preliminary investigation on Friday of the eight suspects in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy, his parents, Roger and Jenny Yu (at right) are among those who watch ill-prepared prosecutors bungle the process at the DOJ. All of the accused, except for Dennis Roldan, have yet to be formally charged in court. (At left) One of the suspects, Suzette Wang, during an interview, snaps "Nothing like that happened." (Story on Page A23.)

ERIK ARAZAS



GMA turns down call for ceasefire on AFP advice

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has turned down calls for a ceasefire against Moro rebels in Jolo and ordered the military to push ahead with its offensive nearly a month into clashes that have killed over 100 and sparked bomb attacks, her chief aides said yesterday.

"The punitive action of the

Armed Forces will continue," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, adding that "they will not let the rebels reorganize again for an assault on the Armed Forces."

About 30 soldiers and an estimated 70 rebels have been killed in weeks of fighting since members of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front

backed by Abu Sayyaf extremists launched attacks on military outposts on Jolo on Feb. 7.

Religious and community leaders have called for a truce on Jolo island, where about 25,000 villagers have fled their homes to escape the fighting.

But the President yesterday said she would not give the "ter-

rorists" any chance to regroup and launch more attacks.

"I've been told that as a result of sustained operations, the terrorists have broken up in smaller groups and are on the run," she said in a statement read by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Military chief Gen. Efren Abu had earlier visited Jolo on the or-

ders of the President to look into the possibility of a ceasefire but Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado said military commanders there did not recommend it.

"At all times, our military and police will not be impeded in their operations to effect public safety."

GMA/A17

Surrender or die: Boy Negro's choice

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,
Luige A. del Puerto
and Armand Nocum

LIBMANAN, Camarines Sur—They gave him a choice of surrendering or be killed. He chose to live.

Four days after hiding in a forested area in Camarines Sur and being wounded during a shootout with the police, the third suspect in the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati surrendered to officials of Barangay

Mambulu Nuevo.

A conscience-stricken Gappal Bannah—also known as Boy Negro, Kim Ted Santos and Maidan—said in an interview yesterday he supplied the bombers with the TNT that blew up a passenger bus on Edsa on Feb. 14. The explosion killed four people and wounded more than 100.

"I told him that he would be killed if he did not surrender," said Barangay Councilor German Villaseñor, who negotiated with Bannah for two hours before con-

SURRENDER/A10



GAPPAL Bannah: The third man comes forward.

Bombing suspect 'could dunk'

By Luige A. del Puerto

WHEN Gappal Bannah settled in Camarines Sur early this year, he kept mostly to himself, except on weekends, when he would display his dazzling basketball skills in court.

"He played very good basketball," said Barangay Mambulu Nuevo Councilor German Villaseñor. One of Villaseñor's workers is Bannah's father-in-law.

"You know what?" Camarines BOMBING/A10

MGA NANAY KASI ANG MAHUSAY UMAWAT!



Women know way to warrior's heart

By Volt Contreras

THEY are your mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and nannies—and they all know the way to a warrior's heart.

According to a recent Social Weather Stations survey, the majority of Filipinos believe that women are "better peacemakers" than men and should be given bigger roles in government negotiations with insurgents and Muslim rebels.

This is food for thought for the predominantly male brokers and emissaries sent by Malacañang, who may be running short on the charm offensive, what with their

WOMEN/A8

AFP wants stiff penalty for media 'terror' interviews

By Dona Pazzibugan

ESCALATING its campaign against terror, the military yesterday publicly declared it wanted a law that would crack down on media organizations interviewing "known terrorists."

Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said media organizations that would interview such terrorists should be penalized—and penalized stiffly.

"We are recommending stiff penalties [against media organizations]," Adan told reporters. He said giving terrorists media

space should be considered a crime and that sanctions against media were included in the military's proposed antiterrorism law.

Interviewing terrorists is also an act of "stupidity," he said. He did not say what penalties the military had in mind.

Asked if sanctioning media would curtail press freedom, Adan said: "Actually we view [the interviews] as an abuse of press freedom. They [the terrorists] are using the so-called press freedom to advance themselves. So they are the ones abusing us."

AFP WANTS/A17

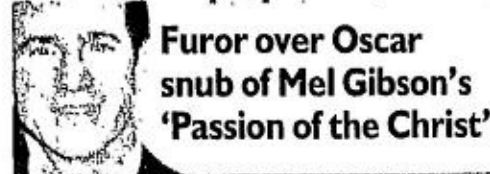


MOVING DAY

A Filipino family boards a boat to return to their home in Pulau Gaya, off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, after immigration authorities began rounding up illegal workers mostly Indonesians and Filipinos. Malaysia has signified its willingness to give illegals a second chance and rehire them after they go back home and fix their papers.

AP

YGC: You have an interesting background.
T. James Watson D.M. Ed. V.



Furor over Oscar snub of Mel Gibson's 'Passion of the Christ'

Congressmen's plans A, B busted; congrats, Senate



Prosecutors blunder at Roldan et al. preliminary probe

Martha Stewart goes home after serving jail term



Dapat bang mag-retiro na ang Santo Papa?

CELLCARD KADA ARAW, CELLPHONE KADA LINGGO! Text 2910 now!

Assumption honors PDI Chair Marixi Prieto



THE PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer's Chairman of the Board Marixi Rufino Prieto has been named by Assumption College one of three outstanding alumnae, together with Remedios Papa Poblete and the ASSUMPTION/A8

PRIETO: 'The fruit of charity.'
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



Saturday, March 5, 2005 ★★ 84 pages / 10 sections Vol. 19 / No. 87 P18

House moves to stop word war with Senate

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

MEMBERS of the House yesterday tried to douse the fires of battle over the reduced pork barrel allocations in the P907.6-billion national budget passed Tuesday night.

"We want a stop to the word war that they [the HOUSE/A6

website: www.inq7.net

Oil price hikes more often

Energy department warns consumers

By Abigail L. Ho

WITH world oil prices surging to unprecedented levels the past week, the energy department has warned motorists and commuters to brace themselves for much more frequent increases in petroleum pump prices.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said international prices had been on an uptrend the past few days, with prices rising to record levels almost overnight every single day.

"Oil has risen to record levels once again overnight. Diesel spot price is now at more than \$65 a barrel. The February average was \$55," Abaya said in a text message yesterday.

Even at these prices, the demand for oil continues to grow, the official noted, and warned that if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries were to adjust upward the price band for its basket of crude—from the current between \$22 and \$28 per barrel—domestic pump prices could go further up.

"The local oil industry and the public better be ready to accept these new price levels. Right now, the local market is starting to reflect this latest oil price surge abroad," he said.

The regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to a spot price of \$43.90 a barrel on March 3, driving up the March average to \$43.26 a barrel. The February average was only \$39.87 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also climbed to a March average of \$57.65 a barrel, with the March 3 spot price soaring to \$58.89 a barrel.

MOPS-based gasoline averaged only \$54.27 a barrel last month.

Eclipsing all records, MOPS-based diesel surged to a March average of \$65.51 a barrel, almost \$10 higher than the MORE/A8



ACCUSERS AND A SUSPECT. During the preliminary investigation on Friday of the eight suspects in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy, his parents, Roger and Jenny Yu (at right) are among those who watch ill-prepared prosecutors bungle the process at the DOJ. All of the accused, except for Dennis Roldan, have yet to be formally charged in court. (At left) One of the suspects, Suzette Wang, during an interview, snaps "Nothing like that happened." (Story on Page A23.)

ERIK ARAZAS



GMA turns down call for ceasefire on AFP advice

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has turned down calls for a ceasefire against Moro rebels in Jolo and ordered the military to push ahead with its offensive nearly a month into clashes that have killed over 100 and sparked bomb attacks, her chief aides said yesterday.

"The punitive action of the

Armed Forces will continue," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, adding that "they will not let the rebels reorganize again for an assault on the Armed Forces."

About 30 soldiers and an estimated 70 rebels have been killed in weeks of fighting since members of jailed Moro leader Nur Misuari's Moro National Liberation Front

backed by Abu Sayyaf extremists launched attacks on military outposts on Jolo on Feb. 7.

Religious and community leaders have called for a truce on Jolo island, where about 25,000 villagers have fled their homes to escape the fighting.

But the President yesterday said she would not give the "ter-

rorists" any chance to regroup and launch more attacks.

"I've been told that as a result of sustained operations, the terrorists have broken up in smaller groups and are on the run," she said in a statement read by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Military chief Gen. Efren Abu had earlier visited Jolo on the or-

ders of the President to look into the possibility of a ceasefire but Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado said military commanders there did not recommend it.

"At all times, our military and police will not be impeded in their operations to effect public safety

GMA/A17

Surrender or die: Boy Negro's choice

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau,
Luige A. del Puerto
and Armand Nocom

LIBMANAN, Camarines Sur—They gave him a choice of surrendering or be killed. He chose to live.

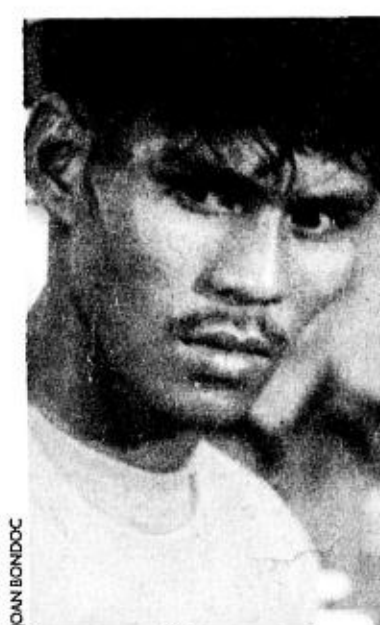
Four days after hiding in a forested area in Camarines Sur and being wounded during a shootout with the police, the third suspect in the Valentine's Day bombing in Makati surrendered to officials of Barangay

Mambulu Nuevo.

A conscience-stricken Gappal Bannah—also known as Boy Negro, Kim Ted Santos and Maidan—said in an interview yesterday he supplied the bombers with the TNT that blew up a passenger bus on Edsa on Feb. 14. The explosion killed four people and wounded more than 100.

"I told him that he would be killed if he did not surrender," said Barangay Councilor German Villaseñor, who negotiated with Bannah for two hours before con-

SURRENDER/A10



GAPPAL Bannah: The third man comes forward.

Bombing suspect 'could dunk'

By Luige A. del Puerto

WHEN Gappal Bannah settled in Camarines Sur early this year, he kept mostly to himself, except on weekends, when he would display his dazzling basketball skills in court.

"He played very good basketball," said Barangay Mambulu Nuevo Councilor German Villaseñor. One of Villaseñor's workers is Bannah's father-in-law.

"You know what?" Camarines BOMBING/A10

MGA NANAY KASI ANG MAHUSAY UMAWAT!



Women know way to warrior's heart

By Volt Contreras

THEY are your mothers, wives, sisters, daughters and nannies—and they all know the way to a warrior's heart.

According to a recent Social Weather Stations survey, the majority of Filipinos believe that women are "better peacemakers" than men and should be given bigger roles in government negotiations with insurgents and Muslim rebels.

This is food for thought for the predominantly male brokers and emissaries sent by Malacañang, who may be running short on the charm offensive, what with their

WOMEN/A8

AFP wants stiff penalty for media 'terror' interviews

By Dona Pazzibugan

ESCALATING its campaign against terror, the military yesterday publicly declared it wanted a law that would crack down on media organizations interviewing "known terrorists."

Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan said media organizations that would interview such terrorists should be penalized—and penalized stiffly.

"We are recommending stiff penalties [against media organizations]," Adan told reporters.

He said giving terrorists media

space should be considered a crime and that sanctions against media were included in the military's proposed antiterrorism law.

Interviewing terrorists is also an act of "stupidity," he said.

He did not say what penalties the military had in mind.

Asked if sanctioning media would curtail press freedom, Adan said: "Actually we view [the interviews] as an abuse of press freedom. They [the terrorists] are using the so-called press freedom to advance themselves. So they are the ones abusing us."

AFP WANTS/A17



MOVING DAY

A Filipino family boards a boat to return to their home in Pulau Gaya, off the coast of Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, after immigration authorities began rounding up illegal workers mostly Indonesians and Filipinos. Malaysia has signified its willingness to give illegals a second chance and rehire them after they go back home and fix their papers.

AP

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

COMPILED BY RAY LEYES, PDI RESEARCH/03/05/05
SOURCE: PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Lucena	Cloudy with Rains	Taalaban	Partly Cloudy
Clerk Zone	Partly Cloudy	Den. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tegaylay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Bishops snub solon's challenge



LAGMAN



CRUZ

By Christian V. Esguerra
and Philip C. Tubeza

A RANKING official of the Catholic Church yesterday rejected a lawmaker's challenge to a debate over the issue of family planning, describing it as a petty dare of a street thug.

"We do not accept a 'kanto boy' challenge like that," Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles told reporters at yesterday's Church-led rally at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila. "When someone challenges the President [to a debate], do you think the President will go down to that level?"

But if Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman is bent on engaging the Church in a live debate, the bishops are willing to pit "an ordinary man who will know more than he does," Arguelles said.

"It's not appropriate that we face him; we're not equals," he said in Filipino, adding that the bishops would name their man only after Lagman had agreed to their terms.

Other bishops also spurned Lagman's challenge, which he aired on Thursday.

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said a debate would only divide the people further.

"Personally, I would not take the challenge of the good congressman," Cruz said in a statement.

"No matter where and how long we debate, I cannot convince him to agree to my position,

and neither can he convince me to side with his stand," the archbishop said, adding:

"While we will argue in the realm of economy, I will speak in the sphere of morality. We would ultimately be arguing on different frequencies."

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Family and Life said the Church would naturally make its voice heard "when the path taken by the state is not illuminated by the truth."

"The truth about the dignity and sacredness of the person, of marriage, of family, is unchanging. No amount of debate can change that truth about man. Nor can 'new and fashionable ideas' turn that truth into error," the CBCP said in a statement.

'This will pass'

But Lagman said he was confident of the passage of the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act (or House Bill No. 3773) despite strong opposition from the Church.

"I am very confident that this will pass the House. Our colleagues understand the needs of their constituents. There is no need to be blind followers of the Church," he said.

Lagman, who co-authored the bill with 51 other congressmen, said Senators Panfilo Lacson and Luisa Ejercito-Estrada had proposed similar measures in the Senate.

"This is not a question of religion. It is about providing the basic reproductive health needs," he said.

Lagman said Thursday that the Church and its allies were spreading misinformation on HB 3773, specifically that it was promoting abortion. "He said clergymen had also been pressuring members of the House to withdraw support for the bill.

Yesterday, he said he was confident that with the proper explanation, "the people would realize that the complaints against the bill are off-tangent, irrelevant and without basis."

Lagman declined to name the lawmakers supportive of HB 3773, supposedly on their own request, to prevent their being "pestered" by the Church and its lobbyists.

"They will show their support when the bill is voted on the floor," he said.

Only in Bicol

Manny Arejola, president of the Kalipunan ng mga Kapatiran ng Pamilyang Pilipino, said he was willing to take Lagman on.

"I challenge him to a debate in Legazpi City," Arejola said, claiming that unlike the Manila-based media, reporters there would provide fair coverage of the event.

"You have to remember that the media in Manila put up all these population control advertisements, and you cannot blame them," he said.

Arejola said Lagman's facts were erroneous, in the first place.

He said that while the lawmaker purportedly claimed a population growth rate of 2.7 percent, the figure was actually just 1.9 percent, as shown in the National Statistics Office census last year.

He also claimed that a separate census by the United Nations even came up with a much lower estimate at 1.6 percent.

Lagman said the Church had the right to oppose HB 3773, but not to sow misinformation about it.

He said that contrary to the Church's claim, the proposed law was not promoting, "directly or even indirectly," the criminal act of abortion.

A huge population is not the sole cause of poverty, but it "aggravates poverty," Lagman pointed out.

"The nexus between a high population growth rate and a low rate of development and high incidence of poverty is fully documented and empirically demonstrated," he said.

10,000 attend Church rally

By Margaux C. Ortiz

POLICE initially estimated the crowd at 10,000, and cut it by half after a brief drizzle.

But the sentiment of the protesters that massed yesterday at the Liwasang Bonifacio in Manila for the "Kilusang Sagip Sanggol, Ligtas Pamilya" rally was not dampened.

In an interview with the INQUIRER at the sidelines of the Church-organized rally, Manila Mayor and Pro-Life Philippines chair Lito Atienza said House Bill 3773 would "destroy the child and the family by promoting birth control and espousing sex education."

Atienza said the use of contraceptives such as condoms would lead to promiscuity among the young because these would encourage them to have sex any time as long as they were "safe."

He said HB 3773 would lead to the disintegration of family values.

"Sex is best learned in the house under the parents' supervision," he said, adding that the best way to fight sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS was "not sex education but values formation."

The rally attended by members of various Church-allied groups and Muslim organizations, as well as uniformed students bearing streamers, started at about 3 p.m.

The students cheered as speakers took turns addressing the crowd.

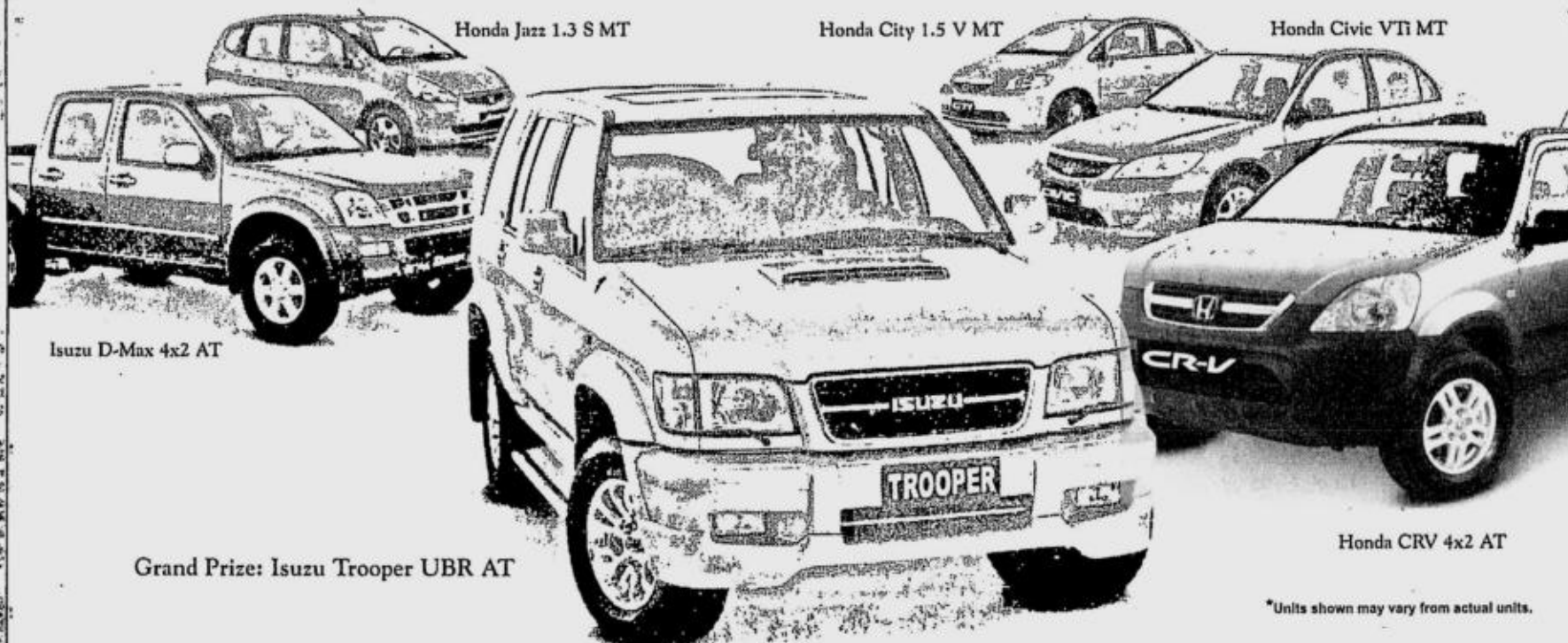
Archbishop Mariano Aniceto, chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, insisted that poverty was not a result of overpopulation but of wrong economic prioritization.



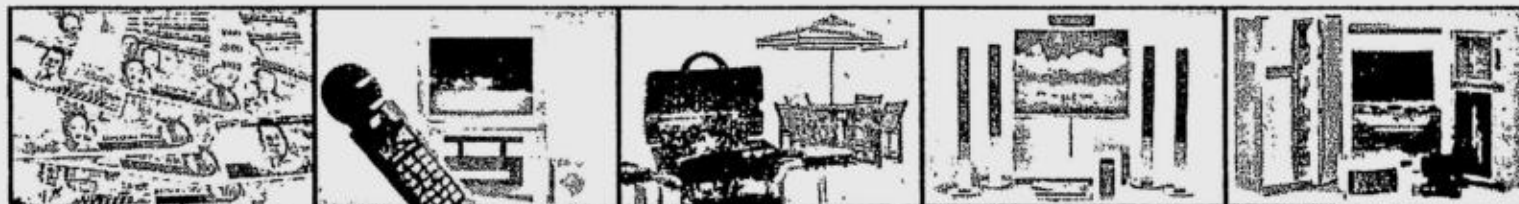
RCBC
RIZAL COMMERCIAL
BANKING CORPORATION

RCBC
Savings Bank

DRIVEN
PROMO



It's your chance to win – while you save and earn!
No entry forms to fill out! No texting of entries!



A total of P4.6 Million
cash to be given away!

Four (4) Entertainment
Showcases worth
P100,000 each.

Four (4) Outdoor
Showcases worth
P100,000 each.

Four (4) Home Theater
Showcases worth
P150,000 each.

Four (4) Kitchen
Showcases worth
P150,000 each.

How to join:

- The promo is automatically open to all existing and new Individual depositors of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank's regular rate (1% p.a.) or non-interest earning savings/checking accounts, except for SWAT products. Individual investors of Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITF) with investments within promo period are also included. The promo is open to Peso and US Dollar denominations.
- To qualify, the following basic criteria must be met each promo month:
 - Deposit account must be active and have at least P10,000 or US\$1,000 monthly Average Daily Balance (ADB).
 - UITF investment must have at least P25,000 or US\$2,000 outstanding placement.
- For Deposits: Qualified deposit accounts will receive one (1) raffle number for every P2,000 or US\$200.
- For UITF: One raffle entry is to be given for every P5,000 or US\$500 new or additional investment.
- Depositors & UITF investors may check their raffle entries at the RCBC or RCBC Savings Bank Business Center of their account.
- Raffle draws are divided into Luzon, Metro Manila, Visayas, and Mindanao. National draw winners will be drawn from a combined pool of the four regions. There will be six (6) monthly draws which will start on March, 2005 and will last until August, 2005. Grand Draw will be on September 23, 2005.
- All raffle numbers generated from February 4, 2005 to August 31, 2005 are included in the Grand Draw. Raffle draw winners will be electronically drawn. All draws will be held at 4:00 p.m., at the RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City 0727. Any change in

time and venue will have notification at branches of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank.

- All prizes are tax-paid. All prizes are non-transferable and are not convertible to cash.
- All employees of RCBC and RCBC Savings Bank, their subsidiaries and advertising/promotions agencies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from this promo.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail sent to the address indicated on their customer information file; and their names published in a leading newspaper.
- Winners must agree to have their names, addresses, and photos included in winners advertisements and other related materials.

For more details, get promo leaflet at the branch nearest you.
Or call 894-9577.



RCBC
RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORPORATION
A YGC Member



RCBC
Savings Bank
A YGC Member

MEMBER: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
Maximum Deposit Insurance for each Depositor PHP 250,000.

BancNet

Trust placements are not covered by PDIC. Investor's obligations are governed by Monetary Board Resolution Regular 1065 (BSP Regulation on Trust). Due to the nature of investment, potential yield cannot be guaranteed.

Member: Insurance Co., Inc. • RCBC • Guaranty • Allstate • Home of Investments, Inc. • Bank of America, Inc. • AV Foundation, Inc. • Home of Insurance Co., Inc. • Manila, Kalookan • Manila • ERI Corporation • Manila Institute of Technology and 21 other companies are also in better service and convenience.

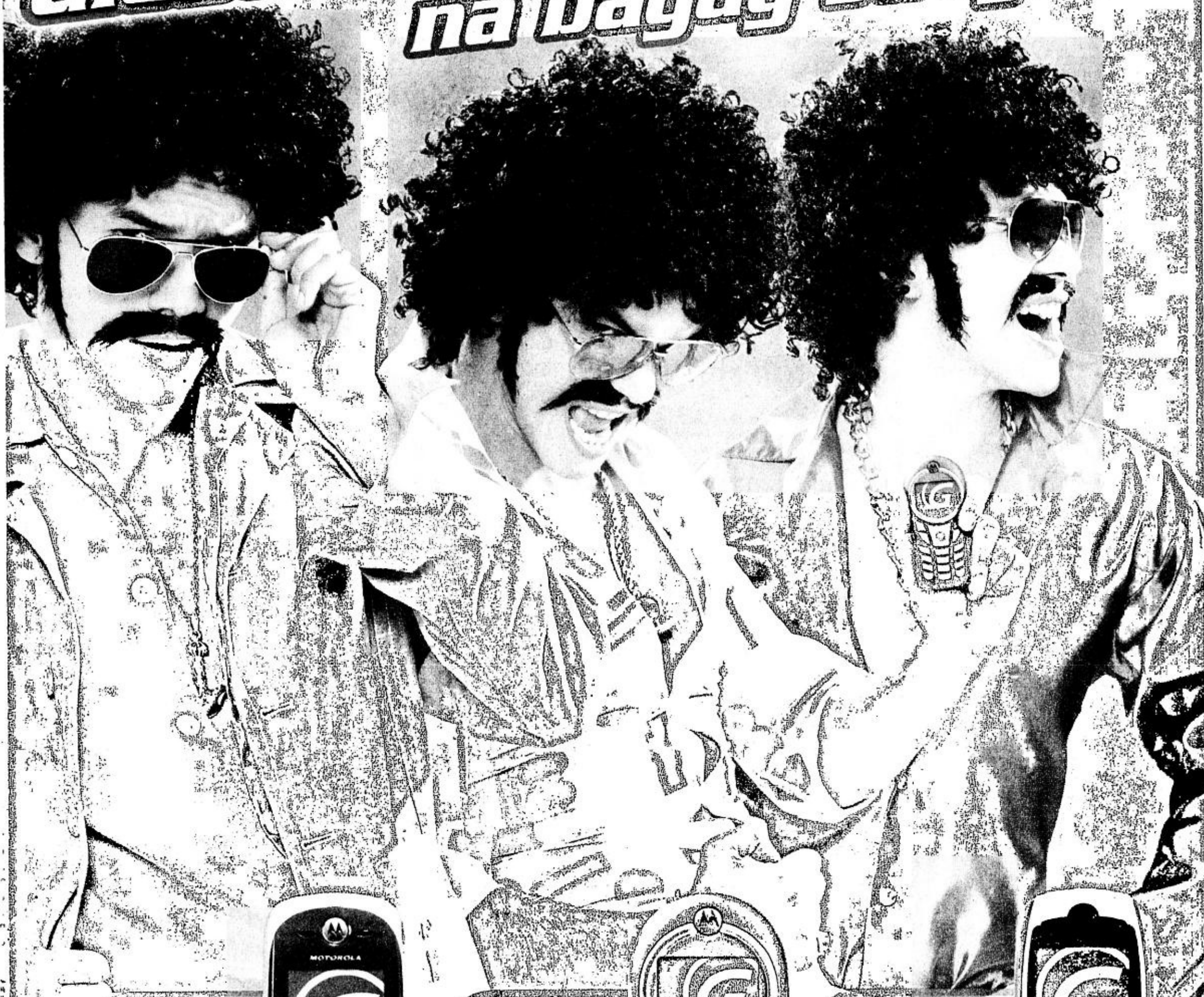
www.ygc.com.ph

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0559 Series of 2005

YGC
Your Group of Companies
Together We Can Do More For You.

GROOVE Moto!

**Pumili ng
Globe Prepaid Phonekit
na bagay sa iyo!**



Mr. Suave

Motorola C651
P6,590
P5,990

- 128XL SIM
- 65k Color Display
- Built-In Camera
- MP3 Player
- JAVA & WAP-ready
- MMS & GPRS capable



Mr. No Non-Sense

Motorola C115
P2,490

- X-treme Memory SIM
- 500-min talk time
- User-Composable Games
- Stopwatch & Alarm Clock



Mr. Disco

Motorola C380
P4,890

- 128XL SIM
- 65k Color Display
- MP3 Player
- JAVA & WAP-ready
- MMS & GPRS capable



**Buy any Globe Prepaid Motorola Phonekit
and get a free UtilityMoto bag!**



MOTOROLA
intelligence everywhere

making great things possible **Globe**
HANDPHONE

Promo runs from February 27 until March 27, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0368, Series of 2005.

Boys town founder remembered

THE SISTERS of Mary will mark the 13th death anniversary of its founder Msgr. Aloysius Schwartz on March 16 this year.



SCHWARTZ

Msgr. Schwartz, who also founded the Boys towns and Girls towns through the Sisters of Mary in the Philippines, died on March 16, 1992, due to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. His remains are buried in Biga, Silang, Cavite.

The archdiocesan process for his causes for beatification was opened last Dec. 10, 2003, and was closed on May 29, 2004.

Born in Washington, DC on Sept. 18, 1930, to Louis Schwartz and Celia Bourasa, Msgr. Schwartz had wanted since childhood to serve the poorest of the poor as a missionary priest.

Msgr. Schwartz studied Theology at Louvain Catholic University in Belgium and was ordained on June 29, 1957, in Washington. He subsequently went to Busan, Korea, for his missionary works.

He established Boys towns and Girls towns to take care and educate and give a bright future to the orphans, abandoned and children of very poor families.

His first visit to the Philippines in 1983 to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for International Understanding. He was met by Jaime Cardinal Sin, then Archbishop of Manila, who invited him to establish his charity programs in the Philippines. Thus, in 1985 with some Korean sisters Fr. Schwartz returned in the Philippines to establish the Sisters of Mary and his Boys towns and Girls towns.

Prayer booklets are being distributed at the Sisters of Mary Girls town Complex in Biga, Silang, Cavite. Tel. Fax: 046-414-05-75.

Bishops give up on bid to broker peace in Luisita

By Philip C. Tubeza

EVEN the influential Catholic bishops have given up trying to revive negotiations between striking farmers and the management of Hacienda Luisita, according to Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noy" Aquino III.

Aquino said on Thursday that the Catholic bishops had stopped their efforts to help resolve the la-

bor dispute due to the intransigence of the farmers' leaders.

"They have realized the futility of going against the party line," he said in an interview.

He added that the bishops also realized that they might only be "used" in the dispute.

Last month, Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto and Tarlac Bishop Florentino Cinense tried to

mediate between the union and management of Central Azucarera.

They even personally sought the President's assurance that there would be no violence on the part of the police and military that would be enforcing the DOLE's decision on the Central Azucarera.

But on Thursday, Tarlac City councilor Abelardo Ladera was shot dead, fueling fears of more

violence in the vast sugar estate owned by the family of former President Corason Aquino.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran yesterday said the authorities should look into the "possible link" of Ms Aquino's family, the Cojuangcos, to the killing.

He noted that Marcelino Beltran, a key witness to the violent dispersal of the striking workers on Nov.

16, 2004, was shot dead in January by suspected Cojuangco aides.

"Who are the masterminds? Who stands to benefit from the elimination of a progressive local leader such as Ladera? These are the points that the current investigation should expose," Beltran said, adding that Ladera's murder was an ominous sign of more crimes to come.

House asks Palace to recall P8-B LRT expansion contract

By Michael Lim Ubac

ANOTHER irregularity.

The House of Representatives oversight committee has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately void the contract awarded to a Japanese firm for the expansion of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) project from Monumento in Caloocan City to Shoemart in Quezon City due to alleged bidding irregularities.

Rep. Danilo Suarez, oversight committee chair, said the President should do so in line with her pronouncement during the Edsa I celebration to continue the fight against corruption.

Suarez gave Ms Arroyo a copy of House Resolution No. 634 in connection with the P8-billion LRT Line 1 Capacity Expansion Project,

which will connect LRT Line 1 to the Metro Rail Transit on Edsa.

The resolution, signed by 32 committee members, showed that Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) could be held liable for graft charges for the highly "irregular" award of the project to Sumitomo Corp. of Japan.

After a series of public hearings, the committee found "grave procedural lapses in the bidding and award of the project" which "taint(ed) the integrity not only of the bidding process but of the entire project whose costs would be ultimately borne by the Filipino taxpayers."

Suarez said the bidding was done in "indecent haste" which was "rather unusual for an P8-billion project."

He said Sumitomo undoubtedly benefited from the allegedly illegal acts of LRTA officials, saying it was very clear that there was a specific design, motive and intent to favor Sumitomo and the latter allegedly conspired with LRTA officials in defrauding the government.

On top of this, the LRTA is under fire for its plan to raise fares from P12 to P25.

On Thursday, a lawmaker moved to block the proposed hike by seeking an inquiry into the allegedly "anomalous transactions" which cost the government P1 billion in losses.

Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said the House committee on good government will conduct the probe.

"They (LRTA officials) have to justify it to the committee level before they could raise the fare. Why

recover funds lost due to corruption from the riding public?" he asked.

Cayetano said the more than 100-percent increase in LRT fare was "immoral," noting that past and present LRTA administrations had wasted billions of pesos due to allegedly overpriced or non-essential purchases of equipment and technical services, and negligence.

Cayetano also disclosed that LRTA incurred losses from a "rigged bidding" for another project, the Management Information System for LRT 2 which runs from Recto in Manila to Santolan in Pasig City.

It was later found that all the three bidders were "actually inter-related and run" by the same group of people. The bidders were Meco, Easy Net Services and Reach/Delta Bridge, the winning bidder.

GMA lawyer pushes bid to zap Congress

I TOLD you so.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, yesterday revived his call for the abolition of Congress to raise revenues.

Macalintal revived his proposal that a constitutional amendment be undertaken before 2007 to change the form of government, into a "semi-parliamentary" system with a unicameral legislature, by 2010 after congressmen suggested the abolition of the Senate.

He noted that while congressmen last year criticized his proposal, the lawmakers themselves are now calling for a smaller legislature.

"They're now eating their own words," Macalintal said.

He said that the need for a smaller legislature was shown with the ongoing controversy over the Senate's passage of the 2006 budget.

Macalintal explained that the controversy showed that the bicameral conference committee, which reconciles bills from the House of Representatives and the Senate, could drastically revise laws passed by both chambers.

"It shows that bills passed by the 250-member Congress and a 25-member Senate could be totally changed by a committee of 20 to 25 men," Macalintal said.

Philip C. Tubeza

Reyes bats for rights course at cop academy

By Norman Bordadora

INTERIOR Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday ordered the introduction of a complete course on human rights to be included in the curriculum of the Philippine

National Police Academy.

Reyes' new initiative on human rights education for future police officers comes in the wake of a US state department report that tagged the PNP as one of the top Philippine government agencies

involved in human rights violations and extra-judicial executions.

"The Philippine government does not and will not tolerate human rights abuses, including 'salvaging' or extra-judicial killings

and vigilantism. We adhere strictly to the rule of law," Reyes said.

Reyes hopes the introduction of a full course on human rights will lead to an improvement in the PNP's image with regard to respect for human rights.

Watch the final show down... WHO WILL BE THE 1st

FREE ENTRANCE!

Simply show proof of purchase of STERLING Products worth P30.

LIVE at THEATER • March 16, 2005 • 1PM

Camille Villarante IV
Enrico Aquinaldo College

Christine Morales
Munika Science High School

Almire Ruth Buzeta
Santa Isabel College

Ruli Enalva
Fort Bonifacio High School

Tiffany Nicole Mallillin
Malon College

Ian Yalung
University of the East

Ma. Kyrly Arabelle Alde
Sanaa College

Emmanuel Gulligan
San Beda College

Knight Grovers
Polytechnic College

Judy Anne Manalang
Manda Central University

Zuri Velluena
UP Diliman

Mary Chino Flores
Jose Rizal University

Rodriguez
San Sebastian College

Leanne Lacala
Philippine Women's University

Jennifer Manueto
Luzon College

Rina Hana Cui
Western Baptist

Jessie Mariluna
PLM

Martine Gonsa
San Sebastian College

Taman Lali Dance Group
Luzon College

Ma. Kristina Malibana
Sanaa College

Funky Jazz Extreme
University of Manila

Karen Angelina Rodriguez
UP Manila

Intrusive Movers
San Sebastian College

A PRODUCTION OF

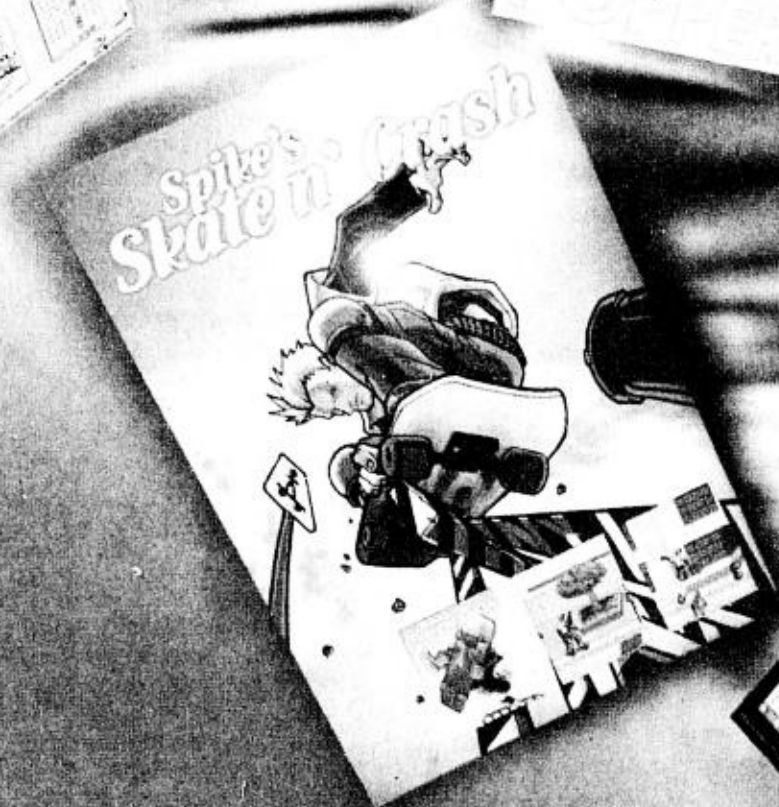
PRESENTED BY

SPONSORS

MEDIA PARTNERS

GET CARRIED AWAY!

NEW JAVA GAMES



Zone
games

SO EXCITING, YOU CAN'T GET ENOUGH!!

TEXT GAMES TO 286



Get popping! Bounce on clouds and pop as many balloons as you can with your angels & devils. But watch out! Don't let 'em fall.

Keyword: POPPER



Tease your brain! Arrange same-colored characters in a straight line on the game grid. The longer the line, the more points you earn.

Keyword: QUEUE



Spike in the city! Navigate through obstacle-filled roads and earn your skatin' stripes.

Keyword: SKATENCRAH



Shred the slopes with Spike! Gain points by avoiding obstacles and performing mind-blowing stunts.

Keyword: SUBZERO



Be the master codebreaker! With monsters as codes, challenge your mind by breaking the code in the least number of attempts.

Keyword: MONSTERMIND

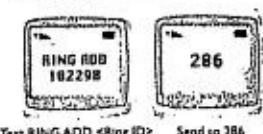
Send **PLAY <Game Keyword> <Phone Model>**
example: **PLAY MONSTERMIND N7650** (for Nokia 7650)
PLAY SUBZERO N6230 (for Nokia 6230)

For Nokia Series 40 and 60 phones only.
For complete list of compatible phones, send **GAMES HELP** to 286.



Listen Before You Download!
Just dial 1513 to preview any Ringtone

TO GET A CALLER RINGTONE



DOWNLOAD UP TO 5 RINGTONES
IN YOUR MUSIC BOX!

TITLE

Soldier
Drop It Like It's Hot
Insane In The Brain
Little Miss Can't Be Wrong
Warning

ARTIST

Destiny's Child
Snoop Dogg
Cypress Hill
Spin Doctors
Incubus

RING ID

102298
102263
102182
102165
102141



Just text RING GIFT <ring ID> to 286 (ex. RING GIFT 102298 0108140940)
*Charge will be charged to sender

For monotone: Type **MONO <keyword>** to 286. Ex. **MONO LYKASTONE**
For polycolor: Type **POLY <keyword>** to 286. Ex. **POLY LIFESTYLES**

TITLE	ARTIST	KEYWORD
Like a Stone	Audioslave	LYKASTONE
Lifestyles of d Rich & Famous	Good Charlotte	LIFESTYLES
Are You In!	Incubus	AREUIN
Megalomaniac	Incubus	DRIVE
Insane in the Brain	Cypress Hill	INSANE

Rates:

- Caller Ringtones - P30 to 45/transaction, valid for 60 days
- Ringtones/Logos/MMS Wallpaper - P15/download
- Games - P30/download
- Text Message - P2.50
- IVR Rate - appropriate airtime rates apply

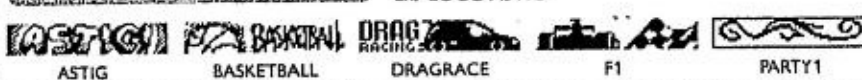
WALLPAPERS

To download, send **WPAPER <KEYWORD>** to 286.
Ex. **WPAPER BEACHPARTY**



LOGOS

To download, send **LOGO <KEYWORD>** to 286.
Ex. **LOGO ASTIG**



Download from 286 and get a chance to win
a loaded **Mitsubishi Montero Sport**
or **P2M** in the Grand Draw!
Plus a **WOW! Magic Sing Mic** daily!
The more you download,
the more chances of winning!

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0204, Series of 2005.

Powered by:



I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call SMART Hotline at 888-1111, call *888 from your cellphone (toll-free), send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customer@smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you. Available on brands under the SMART Network: Infinity, SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, Talk 'N Text.

Marcopper still owes mine spill victims P40M

By Blanche S. Rivera

IBAN™
forever with you

Available at:
K Service, Inc. (North & South Luzon); Puregold Duty Free Inc. (Clark & Subic);
Royal Duty Free, Inc.; Shopwise; Freepoint Exchange, Inc.; Metro Gaisano, Inc.
(Cebu and Legaspi); Emcor Inc. (Visayas & Mindanao)

Promo period is from February 5-March 15, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0376 Series of 2005
***PLUS FREE INSTALLATION**

Model	Description	SRP	10% disc	Discounted Price
SAC-074 EK/EA	(.75 HP) .56 KWH 7,000 BTU	16,888	1,688.80	15,199.20
SAC-094 EK/EA	THP 9,000 BTU	18,888	1,888.80	16,999.20
SAC-124 EK/EA	(1.5 HP) 1.119 KWH 12,000 BTU	21,888	2,188.80	19,699.20
SAC-184 EK/EA	(2 HP) 1.492 KWH 18,000 BTU	28,888	2,888.80	25,999.20
SAC-244 EK/EA	(2.5 HP) 1.86 KWH 24,000 BTU	32,888	3,288.80	29,599.20

- MATSUSHITA COMPRESSOR
- 3 yrs. Warranty on compressor
- Compact elegant design
- LCD remote control
- 24-hour timer
- Digital microprocessor

- Sleep function
- High energy efficiency ratio
- Removable/washable panel & filter
- Range from 7000 BTU/ 9000BTU/ 12000BTU /18000BTU/ 24000 BTU

Exclusively Distributed by: **FREIBURG INT'L TRADING**
(02) 8264195 • 8207493
0921-2901731 • 0918-2968843 • 0922-8089187

Split
Air Conditioner

Introducing a
new **intelligent**
approach to...

relaxation.

On this site will rise
stronger family ties,
security & peace of mind.

THE
SANCTUARIUM

Total Memorialization in the Sanctuary

The Sanctuary is the largest columbarium in Asia with complete ecumenical facilities, 5-star hotel amenities, 24-hr security & operations in a prime location, offering a total memorialization package that will build family ties, secure your family and leave you worry-free.

One Legacy, One Link, One Call

TOTAL MEMORIALIZATION PACKAGE

- Transport of the Decedent
- Dignified and Professional Service
- Use of Ceremonial Casket
- Use of Vigil Chapel w/ Family Room & Toilet/Shower
- Cremation Service
- Book-Type Urn
- One Hour Video
- Documentation Assistance
- Certificate of Ownership
- Perpetual Care Maintenance
- Credit Life Insurance
- Guaranteed Best Investment



730 G. Araneta Ave., Cor. Agno Ext.,
Tatalon, Quezon City



SANCTUARIUM
Where memories live forever

聖國 — 天人福座

Construction in full swing.

Hotline: 636-0720



Investors & brokers are welcome. Please visit us at **The Everliving Company, Inc.** Suite 2601 Prestige Tower,
E Ortigas Jr. Road (formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City or call us at 416-CALL / 416-2255

3 senators want their pork 'frozen'

THREE senators have formally asked President Macapagal-Arroyo not to release their pork barrel allocation—P120 million for each of them—for any purpose.

In a letter coursed through Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Panfilo Lacson and Alfredo Lim told Ms Arroyo that the budget deficit at the end of 2005 should reflect a P360-million reduction, representing the allocations that they had waived.

The three, who voted along with the other senators last Tuesday to adopt the House-approved national budget, decided to forego their pork barrel, a rich source of kickbacks for unscrupulous politicians and contractors.

They want an assurance from the President that the allocations they had waived would not be given to other lawmakers.

Eight senators had earlier signed a resolution waiving 50 percent of their Priority Development Assistance Fund (or pork barrel allocation) to help the government deal with the fiscal crisis. But the resolution was not passed.

So far, only Senators Juan Flavio and Francis Pangilinan have reiterated their commitment.

But Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate finance committee, said the allocations would remain unless the senators notified him "formally."

He said he had yet to receive any letter. **Juliet Labog-Javellana**

MARCOPPER Mining Corp. still owes the mine spill victims at least P40 million in unpaid compensation, proof that the government cannot guarantee the protection of communities affected by mining operations, this is according to the Marinduque Council for Environmental Concerns (MACEC).

The multisectoral MACEC claimed that Marcopper failed to compensate the residents of Mogpog municipality despite the recommendation for payment obtained by the victims from the Environmental Guarantee Fund three years ago.

MACEC representative Adeline Angeles disclosed yesterday that five of the six barangays in Mogpog representing the second batch of claimants remain penniless.

"After making the people go through the tedious procedures to qualify as claimants, they still did not get anything," Angeles said in a press briefing of the Alyansa Tigil-Mina in Quezon City yesterday.

She said Marcopper released a portion of the P40-million payment to one of the six barangays in Mogpog two days before the International Mining Conference here last month. She did not say how much.

The Maguila-guila dam in Mogpog overflowed in December 1993, dumping mine tailings to the Mogpog River, Delta Bay, and the surrounding rice fields and farmland.

Angeles also expressed doubts if the \$12 million guarantee fund for the rehabilitation of the Boac river actually existed. The river suffered a mine spill in 1996 or three years after the Maguila-guila dam.

Marcopper and its Canadian partner Placer Dome have been mining copper in Marinduque since the 1970s. It was only in 1996, following another tragic mine spill in Boac, that mining operations were stopped.

"Marcopper has been receiving an order to rehabilitate the river for years, but it has ignored it. Are they taking the DENR seriously? It has been years and nothing has been done," Angeles said.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor has given Marcopper until the end of the year to clean up mine tailings in the Boac river or face legal action.

House moves to stop word war ...

From page A1

senators] started," said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, who on Thursday proposed the abolition of the Senate through the creation of a unicameral body to be called "Congress."

According to Nograles, House members were merely ventilating their disgust at the senators' claim that the House wanted a bicameral conference on the national budget only "to insert pork."

"We are at the receiving end [of this accusation]," he said. "This is not good parliament[ary] courtesy among [lawmakers]. They must at least explain why they made such accusations."

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. (Lakas, Surigao del Sur) said simply: "Why are we fighting?"

Pichay said the House should be happy that the Senate saw the "wisdom" of the lower chamber in adopting the House-approved budget for 2005.

"Somehow this is a good time to sacrifice so that the fiscal crisis will be addressed," he said, and urged his colleagues to make do with the P40-million pork barrel, down from the yearly P70-million allocation for each.

Pichay, vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, said the quarrel over pork was "embarrassing and destructive."

We are only exposing the political immaturity of this nation. How can we unite our people when we, their leaders, are squabbling for pogi [brownie] points?" he added.

LP manifesto

Saying the people would hate politicians even more if lawmakers did not stop bickering, four senators and 34 representatives belonging to the Liberal Party called for an end to the word war.

"Our country does not need politicking from both chambers. Our people demand change and results from [the] government," the LP said in a manifesto addressed to all legislators.

"This impasse between our chambers will only increase the ill feelings that our countrymen have toward politics and the legislative as an institution," said the party allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration.

The manifesto was signed by Senate President Franklin Drilon, LP president; Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, vice chair; Sen. Mar Roxas, vice president for policy; Sen. Rodolfo Biazon; and 34 party members in the House.

The LP urged lawmakers to engage in constructive dialogue.

"During these trying times, we must assure our people that national interest will reign supreme above everything that we do as a legislative body," it said.

The party warned that both the Senate and the House were at the losing end of the word war.

"Our people deserve results, and that is the primary reason why we serve. Let us put this matter behind us and move forward to focus on serving our people to the best of our ability," it said.

Mutually assured destruction

Pangilinan expressed hope that the manifesto would contribute to the healing of the feud between the two chambers.

Sen. Ralph Recto also called on legislators to repair damaged relations, saying only the executive branch would emerge winner if the legislature was weakened.

"If this will go on, the result is MAD—mutually assured destruction of both houses," he said.

Recto expressed confidence that the House would not retaliate when the bicameral conference committee on the value-added tax in-

crease is convened.

The Senate sprang a surprise Tuesday night when it junked its own version of the budget and adopted in full the budget proposed by Ms Arroyo and approved by the House.

The adopted budget cuts each of the senators' pork barrel from P200 million to P120 million.

A number of senators later said they approved the budget to foil an alleged plan of members of the House to restore their pork barrel from P40 million to P70 million during the bicameral conference.

But earlier, Sen. Panfilo Lacson said his colleagues had padded their pork barrel by P1.3 billion.

Line by line

The minority in the House, which had viewed the word war over the budget as a quarrel between conflicting interests of administration blocs in the two chambers, also called for peace.

"I never participated in this, but I [agree with] Senate President Drilon's position that this will not go anywhere. *Babuyan lang* to ng dalawang institusyon [It's just muckraking between the two institutions]," Minority Leader Francis Escudero said.

But he warned that an end to the bickering might lead to another scam, and aired the suspicion that the majority bloc might insert its amendments in the enrolled copy of the budget set for signing by the President.

"We will check it line by line," said Escudero, adding that in the past, lawmakers actually inserted items in the budget even after the two chambers and the bicameral conference had finalized it.

"It's a question of which will be followed—the Congress-approved version, or the one signed by the President. In the past, the Supreme Court upheld the latter, but we will not allow it," he added.

Escudero also said the minority, including the united opposition and militant groups led by Bayan Muna, would spearhead a protest march on March 18 to expose the supposed abuses of the administration, oppose passage of the VAT measure and push for a P3,000-legislated wage hike.

Unity and synergy

In Aklan, the President called on lawmakers to stop bickering over the passage of the 2005 budget and focus their attention on pending bills, specifically the VAT reforms.

"I urge Congress to maintain unity and synergy with the executive as we all push forward in legislative and administrative fronts to put our fiscal house in order. Our collective solidarity and statesmanship are the hope of this nation," she said in her opening statement during a media interaction at the De la Cruz House of Piña in Barangay Buswang in the capital town of Kalibo.

Common plan for future

"We must strike while the iron is hot. Keep the legislative train in motion for the economy and come together behind a common plan for the future," she added.

Ms Arroyo was in Kalibo to visit and promote the family-owned enterprise renowned for its hand-woven fabrics made from piña fibers and baskets and accessories made from nito (wild vines).

Asked if her appeal was intended to end the feud in Congress, Ms Arroyo said: "I've been calling for solidarity the whole time, so I just wanted to continue to make that call." With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Nestor R Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

We've got it all for you!



DEPARTMENT STORE

3 day
sale

Up to
50% OFF
great selections

mar fri sat sun
4 • 5 • 6

Get a chance to

WIN EVERY HOUR

SONY Cyber-shot L1
Digital Camera

4.1 Mega Pixel • 3x Optical Zoom • Carl Zeiss Vario-Tessar Lens
Colors: Silver / Red / Blue



Every P500 purchase entitles you to join
10 winners a day
10 draws daily

store hours **10am-10pm**

QUIAPO
LAS PIÑAS
PAMPANGA

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0803 Series of 2005

Get a chance to

Win NEW CAR



DEPARTMENT STORE



5 FORD EVEREST AT STAKE!

Every P500 purchase entitles you to join.
JANUARY 25 - APRIL 15, 2005

Double your chances
of winning using your



Triple your chances of winning when you use your BDO Credit Cards



Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0131 Series of 2005

PTA selling Mt. Data Lodge, 11 other assets

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINE Tourism Authority is offering 12 of its 19 assets for outright sale, lease or co-management venture to interested private investors.

PTA general manager and chief executive officer Robert Dean Barbers made the announcement yesterday after the agency's board approved a resolution disposing properties and facilities to promote tourism development in the country.

Real properties for outright sale to potential investors are in Matabungkay, Batangas and Ternate, Cavite.

Offered on lease or joint venture project basis with the PTA are the Agoo Playa Hotel in La Union, Mt. Data Hotel in the Cordilleras, San Fabian Beach Resort in Pangasinan, MacArthur Park Beach Resort in Leyte, Argao Beach Club and Maomawan Nature Park in Cebu, Hilal in Pampanga, Gardens of Malicasag Eco-Tourism

Village in Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga Golf Course and Beach Club in Zamboanga City and the Boracay Environmental Infrastructure Project in Boracay Island.

Since competition in Southeast Asian tourism has intensified over the past few years, the PTA will focus on the conceptualization and development of projects as opposed to simply managing them.

"PTA's current strategy is to revert to its original mandate of

turning tourism-related assets over for private management," Barbers said, adding that the move would allow his agency to initiate tourism infrastructure projects that are of national interest.

According to Barbers, tourism revenues reached over \$15 million in 2003 and the PTA surpassed its projected revenue collection target last year due to aggressive marketing and promotion.

He said he believes self-sus-

taining and profitable projects should be managed privately to enhance their profit potential and thus, increase their contribution to the country's tourism efforts.

The PTA, an attached agency of the Department of Tourism, was established in May 11, 1973 under Presidential Decree No. 564 to undertake infrastructure projects that are supportive of domestic and international tourism.

PTA currently has over 19 assets under management and has

completed over 49 tourism-related projects.

PTA has started to devolve some of its tourist entities to local government units so they can have a direct participation in managing tourist attractions within their jurisdiction to gain revenues and generate job opportunities for their local constituents.

Among these entities are the Pagsanjan Gorge National Park and the Hundred Islands National Park.

RP not giving up Sabah claim despite crackdown

By Jerome Aning

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs clarified yesterday that allowing Malaysia to arrest and deport undocumented Filipinos in Sabah was not tantamount to the Philippine government's giving up its dormant claim on the oil-rich territory.

DFA Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs Jose Brilantes Jr. said that Manila would continue to pursue its claim through the International Court of Justice even as it attends to the needs of the thousands of undocumented Filipinos expected to be sent home from Sabah.

In a joint press conference with Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, Brilantes downplayed Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's

concerns that government's silence on the claim amid the ongoing crackdown might be later used by Kuala Lumpur as evidence that the Philippines was no longer interested in Sabah.

Brilantes, a former ambassador to Malaysia, said the issue was political which would be "addressed sooner or later, possibly sooner." He pointed out that the DFA already has its "Sabah desk" that would come up with measures to settle the Sabah issue.

What is more more important, he said, was to ensure that the arrested Filipinos are treated humanely and be safely and orderly repatriated to the Philippines.

Brilantes said Manila appreciated Kuala Lumpur's gesture to

allow Filipinos who availed of the amnesty to work again in Malaysia after they get proper documentation.

There are between 350,000 and half a million Filipinos in Sabah, most of them undocumented. About 6,000 returned during the amnesty period that ended last month.

Imson said the Philippines plans to have a permanent presence in Sabah through the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA), a sub-regional economic cooperation group formed in 1994.

He said Filipino government personnel will be deployed in Sabah through the BIMP-EAGA to monitor and attend to the welfare of the Filipinos in the Malaysian

state.

The Philippines does not have a diplomatic outpost in Sabah.

However, Malaysia regards any non-diplomatic Philippine government office in Sabah as an assertion of Philippine sovereignty there.

The Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur intermittently deploys mobile teams to Sabah when the need arises, such as the issuance of travel visas.

The Philippines asserts that Sabah was part of the Sultanate of Sulu which leased the territory to the British North Borneo Company in 1878 and became part of Malaysia in 1963.

Kuala Lumpur continues to pay the Sultanate annual rental for the territory as provided for in the original lease.

Oil price hikes ...

From page A1

February average of \$55.63 a barrel. The March 3 spot price was \$67.46 a barrel.

Domestic oil prices are based on international prices, with Dubai as the benchmark for crude products in Asia, and the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) as the basis for finished products.

Domestic oil prices simply reflect the costs of crude products and foreign exchange rates. For importers of finished oil products, the MOPS is a key indicator for oil prices.

Global demand

Abaya noted that price surges of this magnitude have in the past been driven by geopolitical developments.

This time, however, they seem to be the result of "a genuine market force, a renewed demand for oil across the globe. Countries have switched on their growth mode," he said.

Even at these record prices, the demand for oil continues to grow, so much so that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will have to decide soon to increase production, Abaya said.

The surge in world oil prices is partly due to the uncertainty in the Opec supply. Other factors include the prolonged winter in Europe and the northeastern United States as well as continuing violence in

the Middle East.

Opec meets March 16

Opec members are to meet on March 16 to discuss what to do with their present production quotas.

Also expected to be on the agenda is the setting of the Opec price band for its basket of crude, previously placed at between \$22 and \$28 a barrel.

Should the Opec decide to boost its price band to between \$40 and \$50 a barrel, motorists and commuters could see a ramping up of pump prices, Abaya said.

Barely a week after increasing their prices, new oil players Seaoil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V again hiked gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter yesterday and Friday.

Increased twice since Jan.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have increased twice by a total of P1.10 a liter.

Diesel prices have gone up three times by a total of P1.30 a liter.

Seaoil and Flying V said the continued rise in international crude and finished product prices had forced them to increase pump prices.

The big oil companies, including refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell, have yet to announce their own price adjustments but are bound to do so soon.

Women know way to warrior's heart

From page A1

on-and-off talks with the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the communist New People's Army.

The SWS survey said 66 percent of the respondents agreed with this statement: "A successful peace process in Mindanao needs as much participation from women as from men." Only 15 percent disagreed and 15 percent were undecided.

NCR pro-women

Three out of five Filipinos—or 62 percent—further agreed that "women must be represented in the peace panel of the government and the Moro Islamic Liber-

ation Front or MILF," the poll said.

Over half or 58 percent nationwide agreed that "a woman has more talent than a man to find a way to settle a conflict without resorting to violence." Twenty-two percent disagreed and 17 were undecided.

This pro-women view was strongest in the National Capital Region with 66 percent; followed by the rest of Luzon with 63 percent.

However, it was not as strong in the Visayas, where only 51 percent of the respondents agreed, and in Mindanao itself, home of the MILF, where only 48 percent agreed, 24 percent disagreed and

23 percent were undecided.

Lady Presidents

While the survey doesn't say exactly what feminine "talents" may be useful in dealing with battle-scarred MILF commanders or Utrecht-based elders of the communist movement, there seems to be no limit to what women power can accomplish in a predominantly Catholic, Virgin Mary-venerating nation.

Filipinos also stand out among Asians for having elected two lady Presidents. So it comes as no surprise when some quarters saw presidential potential in actress Susan Roces, widow of the popular actor-politician Fernando Poe Jr.

But not everything in the survey was flattering to women. Filipinos were divided, for instance, when asked whether they thought women were "more effective than men in preventing conflict," the SWS said.

After hostilities

This particular finding seemed to indicate that women could wield their magic best when cooling down adversaries after—not before—armed hostilities have erupted.

"The nationwide opinion was split, with 38 percent who agreed, 21 percent undecided, and 38 who disagreed," the pollster said.

The SSS Short-term loan penalty

Attention! All SSS Members

CONDONATION PROGRAM is now open!

If you are a member with past due loan account with the SSS whether salary, calamity, emergency, educational, study now pay later plan, vocational/technical and Y2k loans, here's your chance to keep your account current. Simply avail yourself of the penalty condonation program starting October 1, 2004 until September 30, 2005.

WHO ARE ENTITLED TO THIS CONDONATION?

Borrowers who are delinquent in the payment of their monthly loan amortizations as of 30 September 2004 including those with final claims whose contingency and filing dates fall within the availment period.

WHAT ARE THE CONDITIONS?

Availment period is from 01 October 2004 to 30 September 2005.

Payment of arrears (outstanding principal and interest) may be made in partial or in full during the availment period.

The amount of penalties to be condoned is proportionate to the amount of arrears paid. For example, if all arrears are paid, then all corresponding penalties are condoned. If only 50% of arrears are paid, then only 50% of penalties are condoned. The remaining arrears will continue to accumulate penalties.

If the remaining arrears are subsequently paid during the availment period, the accumulated penalties are condoned.

Borrowers shall be allowed to apply for short-term member loans only after two (2) years from the date of the last payment made within the condonation period.

A borrower who pays at least P500 will be eligible to participate in the Delinquency Assistance Program, the winner of which will be entitled to a P5,000 discount from his liabilities.

Mechanics of the DAP:

Delinquency assistance totalling four hundred (400) at P5,000 each shall be raffled off to borrowers who avail of the condonation program.

The borrower is entitled to one (1) raffle entry for every P500 payment to be assigned by a computer-generated system.

A borrower can only win twice for the entire condonation period.

One hundred (100) winners of P5,000 each will be drawn each quarter.

The prize shall be applied to the borrower's loan balance, if any; the excess shall be paid to the borrower.

SSS employees may avail of the condonation program but shall be disqualified to participate in the quarterly draws.



HOW CAN A MEMBER AVAIL OF THE CONDONATION PROGRAM?

Borrower shall fill-up an Application for Penalty Condonation Form.

Borrower shall be issued Statement of Account (SA) and Payment Return Form (ML-1) stamped "With Application for Condonation of Penalty" on both documents.

Payment may be made through any SSS authorized collecting banks, SSS Cashiering Department in Quezon City or at selected SSS Branches.

Copy of proof of payments (SBR & ML-1) shall be submitted to the nearest SSS Branch to facilitate posting.

Apply at your nearest SSS branch NOW!

You can also download an application form from our web site

Centering prayer retreat

CONTEMPLATIVE

Outreach Phil. will be conducting a three-day "Introduction to Centering Prayer Retreat" from March 18 to 20 at the St. Joseph Marelo Retreat House in Tagaytay City.

"Centering Prayer" is a method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It is not meant to replace other methods of prayer.

The retreat starts at 12 noon of March 18 and ends at noon of March 20. For information, contact Jazmin at tel. nos. 842-0201, 817-7251, 843-8291 and 843-8830.

Samareños reunion set

CALLING all 1955 high school graduates of Catbalogan, Samar's, four oldest schools.

Two days of fun await you and your loved ones in Catbalogan, Samar, on April 23 and 24, 2005 for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the members of the class of 1955 of Samar High School, Samar Trade School, Sacred Heart College (now St. Mary's College) and Samar College.

For details, call Jacinto "Boy" Bohol, Jr. at (055) 251-6004; Bert Singzon, (02) 631-7140 or (0917) 277-1499; Lourdes Abellar-Garcia, (055) 251-2222 and Norma Jaboli-Bohol, (055) 251-5567; (065) 543-8180 or (0921) 230-7730.



REMEDIOS PAPA POBLETE



MILAGROS POBLETE

Assumption honors ...

From page A1

late Milagros Papa Poblete.

The awards ceremony will take place on March 10, the feast of the Foundress Mother Marie Eugenie, during the "Forever Blue" college homecoming after the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

In a press statement from Assumption College, Marixi Rufino-Prieto was cited as "truly a woman of faith and action, commitment and excellence, a beacon of hope for the young woman of today."

"Actively involved in business for the past 40 years, she has made her mark in the community by adhering to the principles of honesty and integrity."

"This is seen and felt in all her transactions and negotiations as treasurer and director of various real estate development companies, in the paper industry, in food production, and most notable of all her endeavors, in media as board chairman of the Inquirer."

"With her quiet and unassuming ways, she was able to influence the socio-political and economic environment toward a more just and transparent direction. She was able to make a difference."

"Her gentle yet firm manner with people exemplifies what Mere Marie Eugenie describes as 'amiability ... the fruit of charity,'" the Assumption statement said.

Remedios Poblete

Assumption said that Remedios

Poblete, a college faculty member, was considered by many as "the best professor of Math and Statistics."

Assumption cited Poblete, academic dean, for her calm leadership and quiet sensibility. "She emphasized professionalism, discipline and inspired many, including the poor whom she continues to serve, living up to the commitment of excellence and faithfulness."

"A woman who truly radiates the charisma and values of Blessed Marie Eugenie, Remy is a role model to her Assumption family. She continues to live the virtues of discipline, integrity, simplicity, respect, fidelity and sensitivity to the poor."

Milagros Poblete

Assumption cited the late Milagros Poblete, who died in 1992, as committed to the ideals of Mere Marie Eugenie.

"She was an inspiration to all her students. She did not just teach, she gave her students an education. She transformed the most timid freshman into the most confident speaker. It gave her joy and fulfillment to be able to hone a rough stone into a polished diamond," the Assumption press statement said.

Other outstanding Assumption alumnae honored in the past years were President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Marietta Primicias Go-co and Tessie Sy Coson.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kabalikat nio sa Buhay
visit www.sss.gov.ph; email: member_solutions@sss.gov.ph

Inclusion of criminal records in ID mullied

THE DEPARTMENT of National Defense is seeking the inclusion of an individual's criminal records in the proposed national identification system being pushed by Malacañang.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz told the INQUIRER he sees no reason why this information could not be included in the ID, noting that these are already encoded in pension fund IDs—either the Social Security System or the Government Service and Insurance System.

Cruz said the DND would propose the inclusion of criminal records in the national ID when the Anti-Terror Task Force starts drafting a comprehensive internal security bill for endorsement to Congress.

But a top SSS official denied that pension funds have their members' criminal records in their files.

"We only have the basic informa-

tion regarding their personal data and their beneficiaries. We don't ask for the criminal records of our members," said SSS assistant vice president for media affairs Joel Palacios.

Cruz said the government would use the 25 million SSS members and over 1 million GSIS members as a base to launch the national ID. Cruz said that with such a massive core, it would be easy to implement the ID system nationwide.

Cruz said the goal of the national ID was to give each citizen a single identification number that he or she could use in government transactions and background checking. "With one number for each individual, it is easier to check their files from a computer," Cruz said. *Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.*

OPENHOUSE TODAY

The best location at the best price

NEW

PACIFIC Regency

VITO CRUZ TOWER II

Pablo Ocampo Sr. Ave.
(Formerly Vito Cruz), Manila

P5,888/mo. For as low as P12,030/mo.

IN-HOUSE FINANCING AVAILABLE • MODEL UNITS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING

CITYLAND Leading Condominium Developer (Presidential Awardee)

812-2222 • 243-6565 • 818-8888 • 241-1894 • 892-6150
(0919)310-8553 www.cityland.net • Investment@cityland.net

BDO BANCO DE ORO

It's back! It's better than ever!

SuperCharged Auto Loan



FREE GAS
as much as
20%
plus FREEBIES & DISCOUNTS

Pay your
1st monthly
amortization
60 DAYS
later!*

FREE
10,000,000
Personal Accident
Insurance*
throughout the life of your loan!

The first to offer **FREE** Personal Accident Insurance that can liquidate your Auto Loan!

The first to let you **pay your loan 60 days later**. Plus, get lots of freebies and discounts on car accessories & services from leading car shops! Enjoy all these firsts as BDO brings back the SuperCharged Auto Loan!

BDO also gives you **guaranteed low rates**, flexible terms, fast, efficient, personalized service! Don't let your dream car pass you by – visit one of our 133 branches in Metro Manila, or call our hotlines **688 1288 loc 1224/4040** or **631 8000** today!

*Tiered according to loan amount. Terms and conditions apply. See filers for details.
Promo Period: March 1 to June 30, 2005. Promo valid only in Metro Manila; Meycauayan, Bulacan; Cavite and Calamba, Laguna.

BDO Consumer Lending Products:
BDO Credit Cards • BDO Home Loan • BDO Personal Loan

BDO Auto Loans

We find ways

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0973 Series of 2005.

mercury drug

NAKASIBURO GAMOT AT LAGIM BAGO

DISCOUNTS FOR
SUKI CARD HOLDERS!

**SUKI
SABADO
SPECIAL**

MARCH 5 TO 11, 2005

REXONA MEN
MSTK 8G
REG. PRICE: P 17.75

PAY ONLY 16.75

CREAMSILK LEAVE-ON
MTS 100ML
REG. PRICE: P 49.50

PAY ONLY 47.00

CALPOL INF DRP
100MG/ML 10ML
REG. PRICE: P 38.75

PAY ONLY 36.75

CALPOL PED SUSP
120MG/5ML 60ML
REG. PRICE: P 56.25

PAY ONLY 53.25

CALPOL PED SUSP
120MG/5ML 120ML
REG. PRICE: P 90.75

PAY ONLY 86.00

HERBANA GR PPYA
SOAP 150G
REG. PRICE: P 40.00

PAY ONLY 38.00

**PRESENT YOUR SUKI CARD
TO AVAIL OF THE
DISCOUNT EVERY WEEK**

COREGA
COREGA PDR PS 20G
REG. PRICE: P 101.00

PAY ONLY 95.75

COREGA PDR MED 50G
REG. PRICE: P 207.25

PAY ONLY 196.75

POLIDENT DENTURE CLSER TAB
REG. PRICE: P 10.45

PAY ONLY 9.90

CENTRUM TAB
REG. PRICE: P 8.50

PAY ONLY 7.65

Centrum
CENTRUM TAB 12
REG. PRICE: P 102.00

PAY ONLY 91.80

TERRAMYCIN PLUS
OINT 5G
REG. PRICE: P 167.75

PAY ONLY 154.25

The Suki Card program is available in all Metro Manila branches including Bulacan (except Marikina), Cavite, Laguna (except San Pablo), Pampanga, Robinsons Supermarket Pangasinana, Baguio, La Trinidad, La Union and Ilocos (except Legaspi and Abeta) branches.

Right reserved to limit quantities on all items. These promo discounts shall not be used together with any other discount privilege. For other promos, please visit our website at www.mercurydrug.com

Surrender or die: Boy Negro's choice

From page A1

winning him to give himself up.

"I also threatened him a bit," he said. Bannah had been shot and wounded in the buttocks in an encounter with arresting officers on Monday, police said.

Police Director Robert Delfin, the police's top intelligence official, said Bannah was an "ordinary Abu Sayyaf member" ordered to deliver the bomb materials to two men earlier arrested in Mandaluyong City.

Police said Bannah and another person, Jemar Astalik, who is under custody, were also the people who abandoned a bag of explosives in a billiards center in Taguig days after the Makati blast. The police discovered the bag of explosives on Feb. 25.

Asked in an interview on GMA network, Bannah said in Tagalog: "Bale po magbigay po ng TNT (I was the one ordered to give the TNT)."

Pricked by conscience

He said the order came from Abu Solaiman and Abu Khalil. Solaiman is the name of an Abu Sayyaf spokesperson who went on radio to claim the group's responsibility for the Feb. 14 series of bombings in Makati, General Santos and Davao cities.

Khalil was one of two persons arrested by lawmen after the Makati blast. Asked why he surrendered, Bannah said: "For the sake of my family. My conscience cannot bear what I did."

Talking to other reporters later, Bannah said that it was his fellow Abu Sayyaf members Khalil and Gamal Baharan, another suspect in custody, who made the bomb and executed the Makati attack.

Reason for surrendering Baharan and Khalil are facing criminal complaints for multiple murder and multiple frustrated murder.

"I was afraid they (ASG superiors) would ask me again to do something bad. I was also afraid they would kill me and harm my family because I want to get out from the group, that's why I surrendered to the authorities," he said.

"I didn't know they would use it on Valentine's Day in Makati," he added.

According to him, he met his cohorts at a gasoline station in Taguig about 6:30 p.m. last Feb. 13, and turned over to them the bomb-making materials.

Following the deadly bombing, he said he went into hiding, but not before leaving a portion of the remaining bomb materials in a billiard hall in Taguig.

Based on interviews with policemen and town officials, Bannah had hidden in a forested area in the barangay, subsisting on coconuts.

Barangay leaders helped

"When I saw him, he was full of dirt and was soaking wet. He hid in the talahiban (tall grasses)," Villaseñor told reporters.

Villaseñor was able to talk to the suspect because the father of Bannah's common-law wife, a native of Bicol, works for the barangay councilor.

Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya said it was through this network that authorities were able to trace Bannah.

"Immediately after we learned that the police were tracking him in town, we called the ABC (Association of Barangay Captains) president, Gerardo Atienza," Andaya told the INQUIRER.

"Atienza told all barangay chairs in town to help verify his presence," he said.

Newly born child

Andaya and Camarines Sur Gov. L-Ray Villafuerte said that Bannah's surrender

showed that if local authorities and national agencies worked together, peace and order problems could be resolved.

"There was no way out for him. It was really a joint effort by everyone. But his surrender would not have happened if the police had not closed in on him," Andaya said.

There might also be another reason why Bannah surrendered, Villaseñor said.

Bannah's wife gave birth to a child on Jan. 31.

"He really wanted to see that child," Villaseñor said. "That's why he went home that night [Thursday]."

All the time that Bannah was hiding, his wife had no idea where he was or whether he was still alive, the councilor said.

A true Muslim

Then from nowhere, Bannah showed up at his home on Thursday night. He was told of the police offer for him to surrender in exchange for his safety.

He agreed to meet Villaseñor in a rice field where they talked for two hours under the cover of the night.

When he finally accepted the offer, the councilor said he brought Bannah to a place nearby to eat.

"He would not eat pork—he was a Muslim—so I fried fish for him," Villaseñor said.

For four days, before his surrender, a composite team of military and police had been chasing Bannah on foot. A helicopter hovered over forests and villages.

Reward money

The Bicol Police distributed flyers to residents that read: "Boy Negro, surrender now for (a) peaceful dealing with the government, and your rights will be protected."

Yesterday, police presented Bannah to the media.

The local officials who helped facilitate Bannah's surrender will receive P100,000, the police said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed the surrender of Bannah.

"This solves the entire case," she told reporters in Kalibo, Aklan.

"It was through people's cooperation ... that turned in Boy Negro," said Senior Supt. Romeo Mapalo, provincial director of the Philippine National Police in Camarines Sur.

Grateful wife

Cyrl Daza, the 19-year-old wife of Bannah, was thankful after receiving the news that her husband had surrendered and was alive.

"I am still confused at the turn of events and I really don't know what to think of," the young mother said as she cradled in her arms their 2-month-old baby.

Francisco Daza, father of Cyrl, said that he hardly knew his son-in-law.

He said all he knew was that the bombing suspect did not even know domestic chores.

He said that Bannah would only hang around the house and from time to time go out to the village square where he played basketball games.

Francisco said that he once asked his son-in-law to help him in his farm work but he told him he did not know how to work in the farm.

Knows little about husband

Cyrl said she did not even know the real name of her husband's family.

She said that he had not even told her where he worked and that she did not bother to ask. **Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau**

An Invitation to a Weekend Adventure to:
CAMIGUIN ISLAND, BOHOL, CAGAYAN DE ORO, WHITE WATER RAFTING, CANOPY WALK, SKY BRIDGE, CAVING, ZIPLINE, CLIFF RAPEL, ILIGAN, BUKIDNON
Call or e-mail us at:
TOURMAKERS PHILIPPINES, INC.
tourmakers@yahoo.com
Telfax: (08822) 71-01-85, (088) 858-14-48
Cell: (0916) 3980295
144 Domingo Neri St., RER 1, Cagayan de Oro City 9000

COPIERS Sales/Rentals
RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin
Also Available: LIQUID COPIERS

BRAND NEW RICOH FT 3513 BEST FOR BUSINESS
P 15,000. ONLY
P 49,900. ONLY

BRAND NEW CANON FC 700 FOR PERSONAL USE
P 15,000. ONLY
P 15,000. ONLY

RECON FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER
PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!

COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 MF Jhocson St. Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Nat'l Univ.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216
www.copytrade.com.ph

• REBUILDERS/LAMINATORS
• CUTTERS/PLUERS/POSSO
• FAX MACHINES ETC.
• ACCEPT COPIER RENTALS
• BUY/TRADE-IN OLD COPIERS

SUNBRIGHT HOLIDAY VACATION FARES

➤ Shenzhen with Canton and HKG	\$ 128
➤ Shenzhen with Hong Kong	\$ 178
➤ Shenzhen Free & Easy	\$ 218
➤ Golf Tour in Mission Hills & Long Island	\$ 478
➤ 1N HKG + 1N Shenzhen	\$ 188
➤ 1N HKG + 2N Shenzhen	\$ 198
➤ 2N HKG + 1N Shenzhen	\$ 198
➤ 5D Pearl River Delta Tour	\$ 238
➤ 5D Shanghai	\$ 328
➤ 6D Guilin	\$ 278
➤ 6D Beijing	\$ 398
➤ 8D Beijing + Shanghai	\$ 448

SUNBRIGHT TOURS & TRAVEL CORP
Unit N-18 2nd Floor, Harrison Plaza, Malate, Manila
Tel: 5244246 / 5234816 / 5211789

Let us help you join* the growing airline industry by enrolling in our courses on...

AIRLINE GROUND STEWARD/STEWARDESS

A rated course designed to provide you with the basic knowledge and skills of a Ground Steward/Stewardess assigned at the Airport. The course will allow you to go through topics on image enhancements and visual poise proper to bringing out the best in you when interacting with passengers in the airport. A familiarization tour of the Centennial Terminal 2 is also included in the program.



FLIGHT ATTENDANT

An eleven-day workshop that will help you fulfill your dream of becoming a flight cabin crew. The course includes topics and practical drills on Inflight Passenger and Food Service. This program will let you experience the rudiments of handling emergency evacuation situations, survival swimming, and basic life support. More so, you will have the opportunity to go up into one of PAL's wide-bodied aircraft. The culminating activity of this program is a module on Writing a Power Resume and Handling an Airline Job Interview.



and COMMERCIAL PILOT

We offer Private, Commercial and Instrument Ratings (both Basic and Advance) with Flight Training on our Cessna 172Rs and the Piper Seminole PA-44. Instrument Training is likewise conducted on our Frasca 142P. A Flight Training Device where Pilot Trainees learn to fly an aircraft with reference to flight instruments only. We now offer our B737-300/400 Equipment Qualification Course to help qualified pilots apply for a Type Rating on one of the most popular airliners in the world.



All these to prepare you with confidence as you plan your way to join the Airline Industry. Because at PAL Learning Center...

WE TEACH. YOU EXCEL

VIEW OUR COURSE SCHEDULES AND FEES AT:
www.philippineairlines.com/PAL Learning Center
Philippine Airlines Learning Center
540 Padre Faura cor. Adriatico Sts., Ermita, Manila 1000
Tel. No.: (632) 526-8829 or
(632) 526-9123 loc. 609/679/680/641
Look for: Ms. Annie Florentin / Ms. Pinky Cabatcan / Mr. Paolo Garcia
Email: pallearn@pal.com.ph
Register online at www.philippineairlines.com

Philippine Airlines
It's about experience

* Our courses do not include automatic employment at Philippine Airlines.

Bombing suspect 'could dunk'

From page A1

Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya said. "He could dunk."

Of course, the councilor and other residents in town never knew of his alleged shadowy background.

No one knew he was a suspect in the deadly bombing of a passenger bus in Makati on Feb. 14.

Taking a bride

Bannah had taken a local lass for his bride in Libmanan town, and the couple gave birth to a child on Jan. 31, local officials said.

According to police intelligence, Bannah, 24, is a regular member of the Abu Sayyaf Group under Abu Solaiman's command.

He was born in 1982 in Talabaan, Zamboanga City.

He allegedly provided Gamal "Tapay" Baharan and Angelo Trinidad, alias Abu Khalil, with the explosive materials used to carry out the Makati bombing.

The police said Abu Solaiman recruited him sometime in 2003. He started training in June 2004 on "practical, re-encounter and explosives course (for) three months," according to a police brief on his profile.

Police Director Robert Delfin, the police's top intelligence official, said he trained in a mountainous area in Marawi City accessible only after three days of walking.

Construction worker After the training, intelligence officers tracked him to a hotel in Iligan City. He was with a certain "Nevras," the brief said.

They then went to Metro Manila and stayed at the Signal Village in Taguig.

Sometime last year, he applied as a construction worker in Parañaque and stayed in the area for three months, the brief said.

In November, the police said he received instruction from Abu Khalil "to take custody of explosives and hide (them) at the Maharlika Village in Taguig."

Order given

On Feb. 13, a day before the deadly bus bombing, he met with Abu Khalil and several others at a gasoline station in FTI, Taguig.

"He was instructed to bring all the explosive materials (during the meeting)," the brief said.

The materials included eight kilos of TNT, a biscuit container full of black powder, two handguns, a cell phone, 10 pieces of detonators and other bomb materials, the brief said.

Taguig Police chief Supt. Ramon Reyes said another bombing suspect, Jemar Astalik, had told the police that he and Bannah left a bag of explosives in a billiards center in Taguig days after the Makati bombing.

The bag, Reyes said, contained 10 kilos of pyrotechnic powder, two kilos of TNT, and several other bomb materials.

"This (kind of firepower) can destroy a three-story building—about five or 10 times stronger than the bomb used in Makati," Reyes told the INQUIRER.

2 Boy Negros

Director Delfin clarified yesterday that there are at least two "Boy Negro" in the police's files.

Both are Abu Sayyaf members, he said.

Delfin said the police were definite that the Boy Negro arrested in Bicol was the man they had been looking for.



University of the Philippines Law Center

INSTITUTE OF JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION
3rd Floor, Bocobo Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines 1101
Tel. No. 920-55-14 local 208 and 209; Telefax No. 929-71-37
E-Mail Address: ij.claw@upd.edu.ph

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

MANDATORY CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (MCLE)

One-Week Course

March 28-April 1, 2005

2nd Floor, Conference Room, U.P. Law Center

DATE	SUBJECT	CREDIT HOURS*	LECTURERS
28 March (AM)	Civil Criminal and Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers (Legal Ethics)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	DCA Zenaida N. Elepano
(PM)	Legal Writing and Oral Advocacy	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Hugo E. Gutierrez
29 March (AM)	Developments in Family Law (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Danilo L. Concepcion
(PM)	Pre Trial and Trial Skills	Four (4) (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
30 March (AM)	Update in Criminal Procedure (Substantive Law)	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Ricardo P. Galvez
(PM)	a) International Law b) Practice and Procedure of Arbitration (ADR)	Two (2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Atty. Eric Mallonga Prof. Alfredo F. Tadler
31 March (AM)	Update in Legal Ethics	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio, Jr.
(PM)	a) ADR Applications in Commercial Disputes (ADR) b) Updates in Criminal Law (Procedural Law)	Two(2) (1:00-3:00) Three (3) (3:15-6:15)	Dean Custodio O. Parfado Justice Diosdado M. Perilla
01 April (AM)	Appellate Practice and Procedure	Three (3) (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hilario L. Aquino
(PM)	Anti Violence Against Women and Children (MCLE Prescribed)	Three (3) (1:30-4:30)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano

Schedules are subject to change without prior notice. Kindly confirm lecture schedules prior to registration and attendance. REGISTRATION FEE: P10,000.00/package or P1,200/session (morning or afternoon session). The fee is inclusive of snacks, MCLE Accredited Certificates of Attendance and handouts.

ATTENTION: LAWYERS
FOR NON COMPLETION OR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE MCLE 36-UNIT REQUIREMENT DURING THE 1ST COMPLIANCE PERIOD WHICH WAS EXTENDED TO, AND EXPIRED ON DECEMBER 31, 2004, YOU ARE GIVEN SIXTY (60) DAYS FROM NOTICE TO FILE A RESPONSE CLARIFYING THE DEFICIENCY OR OTHERWISE SHOWING COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT AND PAY THE NON COMPLIANCE FEE OF P1,000.00.

IF YOU FAIL TO PROVIDE SUCH INFORMATION AND MAKE SUCH PAYMENT, THEN A RECOMMENDATION WILL BE MADE TO THE IBP BOARD OF GOVERNORS THAT YOU WILL BE LISTED AS A DELINQUENT MEMBER OF THE IBP AND SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PRACTICE LAW UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF COMPLIANCE IS RECEIVED BY THE MCLE GOVERNING BOARD. (Notice of Non Compliance Issued by the Supreme Court Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Office)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Iran starts building new nuclear plant

VIENNA—Iran has started building a research reactor that could eventually produce enough plutonium for one bomb per year, ignoring calls to scrap the project, diplomats close to the United Nations said on Thursday.

"Iran has laid the foundations for the research reactor at Arak," a Western diplomat close to the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said on condition of anonymity.

In September, the IAEA board of governors passed a resolution calling on Iran "as a further confidence-building measure, voluntarily to reconsider its decision to

start construction of a research reactor modified by heavy water."

Heavy-water reactors can be used to produce significant amounts of bomb-grade plutonium, which can then be extracted from the spent fuel.

Iran also says it wants to break UN seals and test "essential" parts for machines for nuclear work, diplomats said.

They said this showed Iran's freeze on activity which could produce atomic weapons would be short-lived.

The Western diplomats, who are close to talks between Iran and the European Union's "big three"—France, Britain and Germany—said the Iranians had made this request despite the EU's insistence that it keep its promise to refrain from any and all activities linked to uranium enrichment.

"Iran wants to expand quality control checks and maintenance

of 'non-essential' enrichment centrifuge parts to 'essential' centrifuge parts that have been sealed by the IAEA under the suspension," a diplomat close to the EU-Iran talks said on condition of anonymity.

Iran has already provoked sharp US and EU criticism by conducting quality control tests of a so-called "non-essential" parts for centrifuges. Iran's voluntary freeze of sensitive nuclear work took effect in November.

But in a significant shift in strategy toward an arch enemy,

President George W. Bush was leaning toward backing Europe in offering incentives to Iran, US officials said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the European negotiations with Iran were heading in the "right direction" and Washington was weighing how best to support them.

Diplomats on the IAEA's 35-member board, as well as diplomats close to the IAEA, said they learned the foundations for Iran's research reactor had been laid from photos taken by a commercial satellite.

Iranian officials were not available for comment.

The United States and other countries critical of Iran have questioned the need for this reactor, which is expected to be ready the end of this decade at the earliest.

"Iran has provided changing and contradictory rationales to the IAEA for this project, which would be well suited for plutonium production," the head of the US delegation to the IAEA meeting, Jackie Sanders, told the IAEA board on Wednesday.

Reuters



THE PRINCESS and Prince of Wales on their wedding day in London on July 29, 1981.

AP/UNITED KINGDOM

Diana supporters protest Charles' plan to remarry

SYDNEY—Two protesters opposed to British Prince Charles' coming marriage cried out "shame" and held up a placard showing pictures of late Princess Diana when the crown prince mingled with hundreds of well-wishers in Sydney.

Charles appeared to notice the demonstration against his scheduled wedding in April to longtime companion Camilla Parker Bowles, but ignored it.

A member of the prince's security detail and Gov. Marie Bashir, the British Queen's representative in New South Wales state, tried to block the placard from view as the prince shook hands and chatted with members of the crowd.

Bashir described the demonstrators' action as "cruel" and "very unrestrained."

Charles was in Sydney during a five-day whirlwind tour of Australia that has been overshadowed by scrutiny of his plan to marry Parker Bowles, which has upset some observers because their romance began before Diana was killed in a 1997 car crash.

Some of the people who saw the protest outside Sydney's landmark Opera House did not support it.

"I think he should be able to enjoy his life," royal enthusiast Greg Herbert, 63, said of Charles' plans to wed Parker Bowles on April 8.

Michael Neville, a 30-year-old nurse from Oxford in England, agreed saying: "He doesn't have to be lonely for the rest of his life. But maybe he should give way to his son."

The royal tour—Charles' first to Australia in more than a decade—has sparked renewed debate here over whether the former British penal colony should withdraw from the Commonwealth and become a republic.

Australians are now nominally subjects of the British crown and Queen Elizabeth II is Australia's head of state.

A recent newspaper poll showed that Australians were more inclined to support the country becoming a republic when reminded that Prince Charles would become the next head of state with Parker Bowles, his longtime mistress, as his wife.

AP

idec
AIR-CONDITION
Split Type Aircon
The aircon that creates cool & quiet environment.

1hp P16,500
1.5hp P18,500 2hp P25,000
Free Installation!
Call 8866696/7880221
Available at MC Home Depot - Makati, Fort Bonifacio & Ortigas

BPI EXPRESS CREDIT

3x your Buying Power this Summer with

BPI's REAL 0%

INSTALLMENT MADNESS*

Glorietta Activity Center • March 2 - 20, 2005

PARTICIPATING ESTABLISHMENTS

Top Appliance Dealers				Computer Dealers		
Abenson	Anson	SM Appliance	Waltermart	Accent Micro	Silicon Valley	Villman
Ambassador	Automatic	Sogo	Western	Electroworld	The Computer Authority	
Top Appliance Brands				Gadgets Dealers & Exhibitors		
American Home	Indesit	Sharp	Ambassador Home Electronics	Fuji YKL	Nikon	
Ariston	JVC	Shinco	Canon	Kodak	Nokia	
Audiovox	Kolin	Syntax	Casio	Konika Minolta	Sony Ericsson	
CCAC	Panasonic	Whirlpool	Casio Exilim	Motorola		
(Carrier/Kelvinator)	Philips					
Fedders	Pioneer					
GE	White Westinghouse					
Furniture & Kitchen Accessories Retailers				Travel Tour Agencies		
Ambiance One	HomePlus		Annset	Marsman	T.R.I.P.S	
Blims	Tefal		CCT	Rajah Tours		
Home Options						
				Other Participants		
			Manila Imperial Motors	Pan-eurasia (Collins)	Timex	
			Naomi Jewelry	Sportshouse		

3 Reasons to Enjoy this Summer even More

1. Charge up your buying power when your BPI Express Credit Card's Special Installment Plan (SIP) Limit can go up to as much as **3x** your regular credit limit.**
2. Cool your senses for more items at **REAL 0% interest** via SIP, **NO HIDDEN CHARGES.**
3. **PLUS!** Get a chance to win in the **BPI - VOLVO Lifestyle Promo.** See flyers for details.

PLUS!

Get a chance to win an airconditioner, digital camera, or a Notebook PC in the Grand Raffle.

BPI Express Credit

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A Tradition of Leadership

For inquiries, call 89-109 or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. A1-181 and 0985, Series of 2005.

Canon

Delighting You Always

IXUS 40

IXUS 30

A mind of its own.
A style others can only follow.

DIGITAL IXUS

Where style meets substance.

In the stylish world of compact digital cameras, Digital IXUS has once again set the trend in both form and function. Sheathed inside its sleek metallic body, is the powerful DIGIC II Imaging processor which delivers the most stunning pictures. In addition, the superior Canon UA Lens (Ultra High Refractive Index Aspherical Lens) reduces colour dispersion to ensure sharp, brilliant and true colours. Despite its slimmer and more compact frame, the straight collapsible mount lens system ensures top optical performance for high image quality always. Take your pick from two cool designer looks and make the ultimate fashion statement now with the new IXUS 40/30.

DIGIC II

PictBridge

iF

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2F Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tel: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797

E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

South & South East Asia Regional Headquarters: Canon Singapore Pte Ltd 1 HarbourFront Avenue, #04-01, Keppel Bay Tower, Singapore 098632 • www.canon-asia.com

LIFE for many of the world's women has become tougher in the decade since the 1995 Beijing conference, known as the Platform for Action, agreed to push for equality and economic development, a grass-roots group said March 3. Photo shows 11-year-old Shekeeba from Kabul peering out of her burqa as she waits with other women on Nov. 9, 2002.

REUTERS



Many of world's women worse off today than 10 years ago, report says

UNITED NATIONS—A new report by women in 150 countries concludes that many women all over the world are worse off today than they were 10 years ago and accuses governments of failing to keep their pledge to achieve equality of the sexes.

Governments worldwide have adopted a "piecemeal and incremental" approach to furthering women's rights that cannot achieve the goals in the landmark platform of action adopted by 189 nations at the 1995 UN women's conference in Beijing, it says.

The 207-page report, the fifth compiled by the Women's Environment and Development Organization since Beijing, delivers a strong message: "The women of the world don't need any more words from their governments—they want action, they want resources and they want governments to protect and advance women's human rights."

The report titled "Beijing Betrayed" was released Thursday, the fourth day of a two-week high-level UN meeting focusing on implementation of the 150-page Beijing platform. Delegates from 130 countries have been touting the actions their governments have taken and are planning to achieve equality for women.

But at a news conference launching the report, the organization's executive director June Zeitz said "the realities women document often contrast sharply with the officials reports of their governments."

"What we see are powerful trends—growing poverty, inequality, growing militarization, and fundamentalist opposition to women's rights," she said. "These trends are harming millions of women worldwide."

"Governments need to respond very strongly to counterbalance these trends and push the Beijing platform to further women's rights. Unfortunately this is not the case," Zeitz said.

Nonetheless, she said, "there is still some cause for celebration."

Advocates for women's rights have stepped up the activities around the globe and have pressed governments to change some discriminatory laws. The number of countries that ratified the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women rose from 146 a decade ago to 179, though the United States has still not done so. The goal of giving every girl and boy a primary school education by 2005 is likely to be met everywhere but sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East, the report said.

But despite these and other gains in the Beijing platform, "and despite a decade-worth of efforts to achieve legal and policy changes to protect and advance women's rights at the national level, many women in all regions are actually worse off than they were 10 years ago," the report said.

Martha Stewart gets out of prison, returns home

ALDERSON, W. Va.—Martha Stewart, the lifestyle trendsetter who built a media empire, was set free from a West Virginia prison early on Friday after serving five months for lying to investigators about a stock trade.

Stewart later landed at Westchester County Airport in suburban New York, an airport official said, and left for her 61-hectare suburban estate in Bedford, New York, where she will spend another five months under house arrest.

She had been released from an Alderson, West Virginia, prison at 12:30 a.m. and was driven to a local airport. Carrying a bouquet of roses from a fan and accompanied by daughter Alexis, she stepped from a vehicle into the glare of TV lights, smiled and waved to supporters who shouted greetings, and boarded a private jet.

Stewart wore blue jeans and a fashionable knit poncho over a green turtleneck. "The experience of the last five months in Alderson, West Virginia, has been life altering and life affirming... You can be sure that I will never forget the friends that I met here, all that they have done to help me over these five months, their children, and the stories they have told me," she said in a statement on her website.

Stewart, whose trial and sentencing by a federal court last year captured national attention, will resume a whirl of TV and media projects despite having to be under house arrest.

Wearing an electronic surveillance bracelet and monitored by federal authorities, Stewart, 63, will be allowed to leave her home for 48 hours weekly to go to her office.

And she has plenty to do. Pending projects include a new television show, "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart," a spin-off of the popular Donald Trump reality TV show, to be produced by Mark Burnett, who also created the hit show "Survivor."

She also will have a new daytime cooking and lifestyle TV show and will resume collecting her \$900,000-a-year salary plus bonuses as the creative force of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia.

"Someday, I hope to have the chance to talk more about all that has happened, the extraordinary people I have



STEWART

met here and all that I have learned," she said in the posted statement.

Stewart, who resigned as chair and chief executive of the company, is reportedly in talks with the Securities and Exchange Commission in hopes of being allowed to resume a leading executive role.

In her five-month absence, the value of stock in her company has more than doubled. It is a far cry from last year when, in the wake of her conviction, the stock price sank, CBS dropped her show and advertisers shunned her company magazines.

Stewart has been busy in prison.

According to her magazine "Martha Stewart Living," she has foraged dandelion greens to improve the prison fare, whipped up impromptu microwave recipes, taught yoga, read Bob Dylan's autobiography, made a ceramic Nativity scene for her mother and collected toy opossums for her dogs.

In anticipation of getting out, she ordered seeds and made-to-do lists.

Fans were just as excited. The website www.savemarthas.com featured a clock counting down the minutes until her release and suggestions for throwing a "Free Martha" party—Treating guests to a spring-like buffet.

Stewart, who built a catering company into a media empire of lifestyle magazines, cookbooks and television shows, was found guilty in March 2002 of conspiracy and making false statements.

REUTERS

True Idea

It's an assurance of only the very best.



Take the shake out of the picture!
with Panasonic LUMIX FX7
with MEGA O.I.S.
(Optical Image Stabilizer)

When shooting with a lightweight digital camera, unintentional hand-shake can result in blurry images especially with long-distance shots and night shots. The Panasonic LUMIX FX7 solves this problem with its advanced MEGA O.I.S. (Optical Image Stabilizer) technology.

Now, you can shoot a sunset scene or take shots in dim indoor lighting and capture all the mood and atmosphere. Say goodbye to hand-shakes with Panasonic LUMIX FX7 with MEGA O.I.S.!



The Pinnacle of Expressiveness

LUMIX FX7

LEICA DC LENS

5 Megapixels
2.5" LCD
3x Optical Zoom

Panasonic

ideas for life

www.panasonic.com.ph

80M Africans may die from AIDS by 2025, says United Nations report

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—More than 80 million Africans may die from AIDS by 2025, the United Nations said in a report released Friday, and HIV infections could soar to 90 million—or more than 10 percent of the continent's population—if more isn't done soon to fight the disease.

More than 25 million African have already been infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. UNAIDS estimated that nearly US\$200 billion (euro152.16 billion) is needed to save 16 million people from death and 43 million people from becoming infected, but donors have pledged nowhere near that amount.

In its report "AIDS in Africa," the UN agency examines three potential scenarios for the continent in the next 20 years depending on the international community's contribution to

fighting the epidemic.

Researchers determined that even with massive funding and better treatment, the number of Africans who will die from the virus is likely to top 67 million.

"What we do today will change the future," concluded the report, drawn up by some of the world's leading experts on HIV and AIDS. "These scenarios demonstrate that, while societies will have to deal with AIDS for some time to come, the extent of the epidemic's impact will depend on the responses and investment now."

The three scenarios include a best-case situation, a middle-case and a doomsday scenario. They all warn that the worst of the epidemic's impact is still to come.

"The scenarios are not predictions, they are plausible stories about the

future," UNAIDS chief Dr. Peter Piot said. "The scenarios highlights the various choices that are likely to confront African countries in the coming decades."

"There is no single policy prescription that will change the outcome of the epidemic," the report stated. "The death toll will continue to rise no matter what is done."

Under the worst-case scenario, experts have plotted current policies and funding over the next two decades.

"It offers a disturbing window on the future death toll across the continent, with the cumulative number of people dying from AIDS increasing more than fourfold," it says. "The number of children orphaned by the epidemic will continue to rise beyond 2025."

AIDS already has a devastating impact on the continent.

FLYING RECORD
GlobalFlyer pilot Steve Fossett waves to the crowd March 3 at the Salina Municipal Airport in Salina, Kan., after touching down and becoming the first person to fly around the world alone without stopping or refueling.



Pope improving, but weeks away from discharge

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul II's health is improving after throat surgery to ease his breathing but there is no set date for his departure from hospital, Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Thursday.

It may be some weeks before the 84-year-old Pope's discharge, he indicated, saying only it was "possible" he would leave hospital before Easter, which this year falls on March 27.

"It's possible, but I'm not in a position myself to indicate a date," Navarro-Valls told reporters, adding that John Paul II "really wants to go home."

He said the Pope, who is in hospital for the second time since he was rushed to Rome's Gemelli clinic on Feb. 1, "daily follows the activity of the Holy See and the life of the Church" through his contact with "several of his collaborators" who had been visiting him.

Vatican sources said Wednesday that his schedule during the Holy Week of Easter—normally the most gruelling period of his year—would be cut down compared to last year.

"That will be decided when the Pope gets back to the Vatican," the spokesperson said.

After returning home Feb. 10, the Pope was rushed to hospital two weeks later with a recurrence of acute breathing problems, which doctors alleviated by performing a tracheotomy, inserting a breathing tube through a surgical cut in the neck.

"The health of the Holy Father, John Paul II, continues to improve and show progress. As previously stated, the Pope is eating regularly and spends several hours each day in an armchair," Navarro-Valls said in a statement.

The wound from the throat surgery "is healing," he said.

John Paul II, who is also suffering from Parkinson's disease, is "actively participating" in daily rehabilitation sessions for his speaking and breathing, Navarro-Valls told reporters.

The spokesperson said he would confirm on Saturday whether the pope would participate in the Sunday Angelus.

Huge pedophile trial opens in western France

ANGERS, France—One of France's biggest-ever criminal trials—a case in which 66 men and women are accused of raping children "sold" by their parents for pitiful sums of money and cigarettes—opened Thursday in the western city of Angers.

The case is expected to last four months and is being heard in a specially constructed wooden hall in the law courts built to accommodate the 60 lawyers, many of the 45 victims, and the accused, who face sentences ranging up to life imprisonment if convicted.

Sixty lawyers are involved in the trial, and the 430-page prosecution case will take four clerks three days to read out to the three judges and the nine-person jury to be selected.

Proceedings are closed to the public but covered by news reporters, 150 of whom have been accredited. Outside, police blocked the street and bystanders watched with curiosity as the defendants arrived in a number of vans.

The testimony to be heard from the victims, who were aged from six months to 12 years at the time, has been deemed so painful that jury members will have access to a special psychiatric team.

"I expect that first of all the children will be listened to," said Alain Fouquet, one of the lawyers for the victims, outside the courthouse. "They know what happened."

Details of the allegations against the 39 men and 27 women make appalling reading.

All come from the poorest and least educated sections of society, and lived in the Saint-Leonard quarter of Angers, a largely pleasant and leafy historic town.

Investigators were alerted to the network when they decided to keep tabs on Eric Joubert, a former convicted sex offender released in 1999 who was supposed to be undergoing a course of psychiatry. He and another former offender, Franck Vergondy, are alleged to have founded the ring.

iron

royal jelly

revicon max

ginseng

potent to the max

MULTIVITAMINS
MINERALS + GINSENG + ROYAL JELLY

new revicon max

Mas buhay ang dugo.
Mas buhay ang lakas.

ISSN
0116-2642PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Vol. 19 No. 87

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer.opi.name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at:
 • Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
 • P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
 • Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
 • Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
 • Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 /
 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.



Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANO
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • **Chief, News Day Desk** NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYRE JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Desk Editor JUAN V. SARMIENTO JR.
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA

Board Chairman MARIKI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Hara-kiri

THE SUGGESTION from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that, in the wake of the controversial passage of the national budget, our senators and congressmen alike commit *hara-kiri* as "the best public service to the people," is not only melodramatic. It is also redundant.

For in the last few days, both houses of Congress have all but self-destructed. The members of the upper chamber may think that in the war of perceptions they have gained the advantage, but their victory is only apparent, and retaliation from the House all but certain. As for the congressmen, they miscalculated badly; and they are now agonizing over the consequences of unexpected defeat.

But they are not mourning their losses on the PR battlefield. In fact, in the last two days, congressmen have essentially given up the PR game, preferring instead to fight for keeps, regardless of how the public may perceive them.

It is no secret that it is the pork barrel they are fighting for.

When the Senate voted on Tuesday to adopt the House version of the 2005 budget, *in toto*, on the prodding of finance committee chair Sen. Manuel Villar, Speaker Jose de Venecia, who was abroad, immediately released a statement claiming victory. The Senate's move, De Venecia said, "proves the supremacy of the House in budget-making and the wisdom of the House position."

Three days after, of course, this statement is deservedly ridiculed. Because no one else in the House was in the mood to claim wisdom for its version of the budget. In fact, many congressmen have said quite the opposite.

The other day, some of them even went to the extent of calling for the abolition of the Senate. House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles spoke for many of his colleagues when he said the country would be "in a better state if it has a single parliament, with each member representing a clearly defined constituency." Kampi Rep. Jose Solis also described the Senate as "an appendix of Congress," and then called for an emergency appendectomy.

Their reasoning is simplicity itself. If the Senate cannot improve on the House version of a bill, if—as in this instance—it adopts a House measure without any revisions, then perhaps there is really no need for another chamber of Congress in the first place.

But in the depths of their frustration, Nograles et al. forget that the public can read between the lines. Congressmen want the Senate abolished—not merely because the Senate adopted their version of the budget, but because by doing so, it robbed them of the opportunity to restore their pork barrel funds (reduced to P40 million per representative) to the original amount (some P70 million each).

Santiago said House leaders were merely waiting for the bicameral conference committee to begin meeting, before negotiating the amounts upward. "They got what they wanted because they said this is the budget, so why are they angry? You have to analyze this in a deeper level—they wanted to do something in the bicam that they can no longer do," she told reporters.

But Santiago was not present when the Senate voted to adopt the House version on Tuesday. The more likely reason why her colleagues in the Senate decided to accept the House measure was the precise opposite: they saw that the House wanted to avoid a bicameral conference committee meeting at all costs.

The result of a long-enough delay would have been reenactment, for the second time, of the 2003 budget. Not coincidentally, in that budget, pork barrel funds for House members were set at P70 million each.

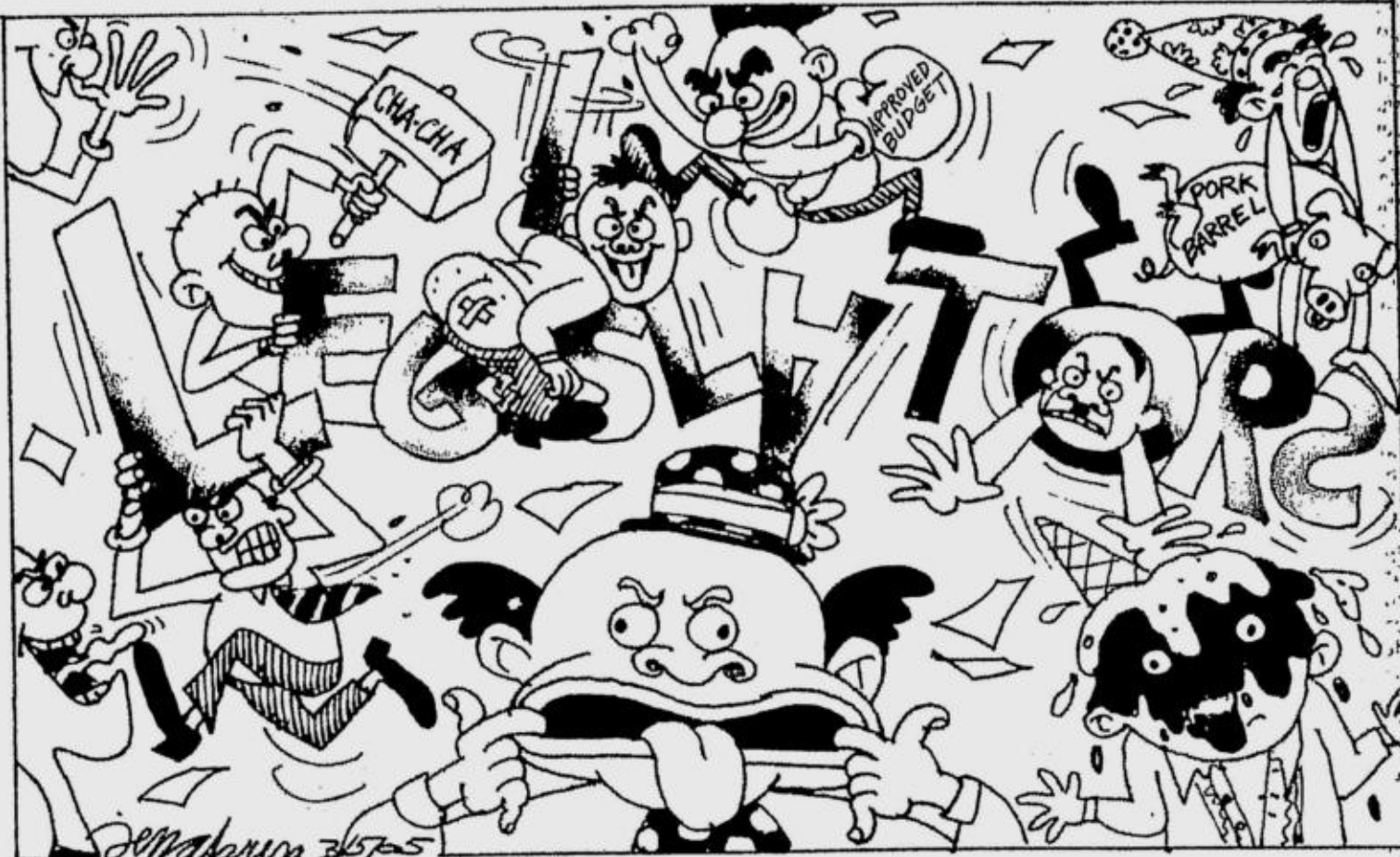
It is no wonder that, as word of the Senate maneuver spread, one congressman after another acted as if he had been given the ritual sword to commit political *seppuku*.

New door to peace

THE FALL of the Lebanese government in the wake of mass protest demonstrations against the ongoing Syrian occupation was a refreshing surprise. Israel cannot be indifferent to the developments in the region, which could have an enormous influence on its national security.

The developments over the northern border oblige Jerusalem to reconsider its policy of many years that silently agrees to Syrian control of Lebanon. The Golan Heights remain a "deposit" for a future peace agreement, in which the final border between Israel and Syria will be determined and the two states will have normal relations. That would be Israel's contribution to the new order in the north.

Ha'aretz (Tel Aviv, Israel)



Judicial notice

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



Jan. 28, 2005, is couched in sterner language and says:

"When this case was called this afternoon, neither Atty. Jose A. Oliveros nor Atty. Leon L. Asa, counsels for the accused, appeared. Hence, Atty. Oliveros and/or Asa are hereby directed to explain within ten (10) days from receipt hereof why they should not be cited in contempt of Court for their failure to appear for today's pre-trial despite due notice. They are also ordered to submit to this Court a certified copy of the death of accused Salvador H. Laurel." (Italics mine.)

The Order was signed by Justices Ma. Cristina G. Cortez-Estrada, as chair, Roland B. Jura and Teresita V. Diaz-Balagos as members.

Although perplexed, Oliveros and Asa dutifully filed their Explanation, where they respectfully submitted that their representation as lawyers of the late Salvador H. Laurel was lawfully terminated upon their former client's death.

They invoked jurisprudence that "a dead client has no personality and cannot be represented by an attorney." (Lavina c. Court of Appeals, 171 SCRA 691, citing Barrameda v. Barbara, 90 Phil. 718, and Caisip v. Cabangon, 109 Phil. 150.)

They added that "the attorney for a party ceases to be the attorney of such party upon the death of the latter." (Lawas v. Court of Appeals, 146 SCRA 173, citing People v. Florendo, 77 Phil. 16.)

May I add that even under the ordinary rules on agency in general, among the causes for the extinguishment of the contract is the

death of the principal or the agent. (Civil Code, Art. 1919.)

As required, they furnished the Division a copy of the Death Certificate of Salvador H. Laurel issued by the County of San Mateo, California, USA. They also sent a Transit Permit from its Health Services Agency for his cremated remains plus a Report of Death and an Affidavit regarding the shipment of such remains executed by our own Consul General Delia Meñez Rosal.

As an added precaution, they also attached a copy of Proclamation No. 544 just in case the Division had not read or at least heard about it.

As the Division had already taken judicial notice of Laurel's death in its Order dated Aug. 20, 2004, one can only wonder why it still subsequently ordered his former lawyers to submit copies of his death certificate.

The justices, as superior members of the judiciary, could not have been unaware of the jurisprudence cited by Messrs. Asa and Oliveros. That is why I cannot understand the threat in that Order toward the lawyers who had correctly assumed that their services for the late Laurel had already terminated with his death.

I would agree that the death of an ordinary client, of which judicial notice cannot be taken, must be reported by the former lawyer for the information of the court. But former Vice-President Salvador H. Laurel was no ordinary client; no less than the President of the Philippines, the Senate, and most of the rest of the nation, knew of his death.

Submission of the required Explanation with all the annexes must have involved not inconsiderable time and expense that could have been avoided if the members of the Fifth Division had not uselessly preoccupied themselves with the trivial issues in this case. May I say, with all due respect, that the more serious questions before their Division should have claimed their preferential attention.

Checkmate

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



same purpose but to ensure more transparency and accountability).

At this point, the Senate decides that since its main objective is to get a 2005 budget passed, rather than settle with a reenacted budget, it would swallow its pride (after all, it worked on its own version for two months) and adopt *in toto* the House version.

When I first heard about the decision, my reaction was to throw up my hands and wonder why the senators didn't just do that from the very beginning. I thought the Senate was abrogating its powers and responsibilities. It didn't sit well with me—because while the difference between the two chambers may at times be almost negligible, it seemed to me that, more often than not, the Senate has acted more responsibly than the House.

The House reaction to the Senate move was, to say the least, startling. One would have thought that they would give themselves self-satisfied pats on the back since their version was adopted *in toto*. One would have expected them to say that this goes to show that the Senate has outlived its usefulness, by reducing itself to merely dittoing House actions.

But no. House members were angry at the Senate because of the latter's "grandstanding." Grandstanding? The Senate agrees totally with the House version of the budget, and the Senate is grandstanding?

Then there were the accusations that the senators did this to deflect attention from the Lacson "revelations" that showed up the dirt on their faces—they had wanted to increase their pork barrel and were caught in the act.

That doesn't wash either (pardon the pun). The Senate version, until it was discarded, did not increase the pork barrel allocations—if anything, some senators (e.g. Flavier, Lacson, Drilon) gave theirs up.

There were also calls, like the one from Nograles, for the Senate to be abolished, not for being useless, but for "grandstanding"—at the expense of the House. Thus, and here comes another non sequitur, the need for a unicameral, parliamentary system. Please. The dream of these legislators would be a nightmare for the country—a parliamentary system would give them not only legislative powers (which they abuse right and left) but also executive powers (which they are sure to abuse, right and left—with no more checks and balances).

But I digress. The next logical question is, if these accusations hurled by the House hold no water, why did they get angry when the Senate adopted the House version of the 2005 budget?

The real reason illustrates the depths of cupidity and self-interest that some legislators are capable of. It turns out that the House wanted to raise the pork-barrel levels to their original uncult levels. How? By adopting a no-loss strategy. First, they would postpone the bicameral sessions on the budget until after they passed the VAT bill, thus earning brownie points with the President, to be used to negotiate a restoration of the pork-barrel cuts that they had "given up" in the original House version. That was Plan A.

If Plan A failed, Plan B would still be a win situation. If the Senate refused to restore the pork barrel cuts, there would be an impasse, and the 2003 cum 2004 budget—where the pork barrel allocations were at their original, uncult levels—would be reenacted for 2005.

Neat, huh? Except for one thing. Both Plans A and B required a bicameral committee meeting. The Senate, by adopting the House version, bypassed it. The House didn't see that coming. Check and checkmate.

Congratulations, Senate.

Indolence did it

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



March 18 adjournment. Sen. Lito Lapid is reportedly bound for San Diego, California, while Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. is going to Los Angeles, a second home to him. Senate President Franklin Drilon normally spends his Easter break in San Francisco with his family. Other lawmakers plan to go to Europe and South America.

Villar asked colleagues to approve the House budget so they could get it over with. If not, he argued, it will take another two months at the bicameral level; moreover, deliberations on the VAT bill are due to start this Monday, hence it would be hard to get anyone on the budget. Some senators balked at first. A common reaction was why they had to conduct hearings for two and a half weeks—morning, afternoon and evening—only to come up with perfectly the same House bill. Sen. Mar Roxas felt the Senate inputs were put to naught. Sen. Ralph Recto, who chairs the ways and means committee that's sponsoring the two VAT bills, feared that the House lawmakers would hold the Senate hostage over the budget, using it as leverage to get the two VAT bills approved. Recto realized that if the budget bill was not approved, he would be standing in front of the chamber defending the VAT for two months. "It's a damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't situation," he was quoted as saying.

Villar agreed to this observation, saying, "Pinaglaruan lang tayo ni Joe de Venecia (JDV has been toying with us)," referring to accusations that JDV had instructed his boys to boycott the bicam conference on the budget to force a Senate VAT approval. Villar also noted that House

appropriations chair Rolando Andaya Jr. had become scarce as the passage of the budget bill hung. Andaya did not attend the Wednesday after-session dinner of the "Wednesday Club," the group of senators who were once House representatives. Andaya is one of the two associate members of this group (the other is Environment Secretary Michael Defensor). Its most prominent member is Vice President Noli de Castro who still attends regularly. Interestingly, the night the budget was approved by the Senate, Andaya immediately showed up at the club dinner at the Heritage Hotel, and was heard telling the others, "Parang nabunutan ako ng tinik."

Villar proposed his idea to Senate President Franklin Drilon. Reluctant at first, the Senate chief suggested that the minority be consulted. To all his hesitant colleagues, Villar had only one question: what's our choice? Do you relish the President calling a special session for VAT during the Holy Week, or right after Easter? So compelling was the idea that in the afternoon, the Senate suspended the regular session to deliberate on Villar's proposal. The remarkable thing is that it did not even take one and a half hours to get the consensus of the senators. The lure of foreign travel was simply irresistible!

Some senators are now justifying their sudden action on the budget by saying they merely wanted to thwart the plan of the House to sneak back in the cuts made on the pork barrel. (The cuts amounted to P30 million from each congressman and P80 million from each senator.) By doing away with the bicam, the senators say, they saved the country about P10 billion or P11 billion, which it doesn't have anyway. To the House members, however, this is the unkindest jab of all, coming from the senators at that. They point out that they passed the Palace version with the cuts as early as three months ago. Reinserting them would not have escaped the senators' and the public's notice! The House people asserted that the senators, to quote Rep. Teddyboy Locsin, "were caught with their hand in the cookie jar."

Caring for Cholo

MY parents were hugging my baby brother, rocking him to sleep, as tears streamed down my mom's face. The doctor had just told us my brother was afflicted with autism, a brain disorder that impedes one's mental, social and sometimes physical, abilities. It has no known cause, no cure. And so, as my parents tried to put my brother Cholo to sleep, they couldn't help but feel helpless and hopeless.

I remember that scene so vividly because what my parents felt I was feeling, too.

It has been 10 years since. The Lord has been our family's strength and we have learned to turn hopelessness into hopefulness, fear and uncertainty into positive action. We have accepted the pains—and the joys—that come with having a "special child" in the family. Autistic individuals have different traits and attributes, each one manifesting unique attitude patterns. Cholo is what doctors call verbal and functional. He can speak and tell us his needs. Although his education has been delayed, he has been through a normal academic program in school. What is a bit off track are his social skills. He has difficulty engaging in a normal conversation, like telling stories and jokes, and he does not mingle and play with other kids.

Cholo also has certain mannerisms and habits that others often find odd or, at times, amusing. He jumps and flaps his hands when excited. He also constantly mumbles commercial jingles or lines he has memorized from TV shows.

Autistic individuals usually enter certain phases, where they take on a particular behavior for a period of time. Cholo has had a "wet-everything-you-can-get-your-hands-on" phase. Damaged were a couple of cell phones and my other brother's Playstation. Now he is into a "photo exhibit" phase, where our once organized photo albums have been turned into a tattered and torn jumble.

In dealing with Cholo, patience is not only a virtue, it is a necessity. But really, we just cannot stay mad at him despite his misbehavior. How can we, when he showers us with hugs and kisses and doesn't stop saying sorry until you give him the thumbs-up sign and assure him that he is a "good boy na"? His sweetness and innocence are enthralling. Each one of us has developed a unique bond with Cholo. We cannot help but love him to pieces.

Everything has been under control for the past years. We have taught ourselves to adjust to the complications and to live around the special needs of my brother.

But recently, things took quite an alarming turn. Cholo has been experiencing severe leg cramps. He screams and cries in pain. At first, we assumed that this was caused by his hyperactive nature. We had him checked by pediatricians, who said that there was nothing wrong physically with Cholo. But they advised that he be given a series of tests so they can rule out the possibility that the leg cramps are a form of seizure.

At the moment, the doctors consider adolescence as the most logical explanation. Because of the onset of puberty (Cholo being 10 now), they suspect that his body has been reacting to hormonal changes that come with growing up. Any normal child will experience the same, but autism makes it worse.

My mom recalls that my other brother Iggy also had leg cramps when he was about the same age. At the time, mom would nonchalantly tell him that it was just part of "growing pains."

Now with Cholo, it is totally different. For how can we explain to him that it is just part of growing up? As he writhes and twists in pain, all we can do is try to comfort him. We've been trying every massage technique, ointment and foot remedy available, but all they provide is momentary relief.

Cholo's condition has been difficult especially for my mom. She often remarks that she'd rather be the one in pain instead of seeing Cholo suffer.

What I have come to realize is that Cholo is indeed growing up and will continue to mature. He isn't anymore the hyperactive little kid who could easily blend with a group of normal kids. In fact, we noticed that people stare and gawk at some of his odd behavior.

It is not a comforting thought, since we know how cruel people can be. We've had our share of not-so-pleasant experiences. There were people who got mad and blurted out words that hurt even after we had explained and apologized for Cholo's misbehavior.

But once in awhile, there are those who are patient and even give us an understanding smile. I consider these instances as precious victories for Cholo and special people like him.

If you happen to encounter an individual who acts differently or exhibits some odd mannerisms, please be more gentle and patient with him. By your kindness, you give a big boost to all special people.

For us, this year is filled with uncertainty, and yet each day brings hope. We will deal with Cholo's condition one day at a time and offer everything in prayer. I thank the Lord for blessing us with loving and supportive family and friends.

We will continue to care for Cholo, and love him unconditionally. We cannot be there to protect him at all times, but when we are with him, what is important is that he feels and knows that he is loved.

Jerilee Granada, 20, is completing her AB in Communication Research at the University of the Philippines, Diliman this semester.

THEY SAID

Low life

"I was born to higher things than to engage in verbal abuse with bureaucrats who represent the lowest life form of the bureaucracy."

—Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago on the angry remarks made by provincial governors whom she held responsible for the illegal logging activities in their areas of responsibility

Love's rewards

"If there is love, everything follows, including sexual satisfaction."

—Ka Jose on his marriage to comrade Ka Andres

Scientific options

"The bulk of bachelor of science degree holders go abroad for lack of options to stay here."

—Galileo Galilei Awardee Caesar Saloma, endorsing the country's need for graduate schools in the sciences

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



The catacombs and Alcatraz

COMMENTARY

Denis Murphy

ter it became Rome's official religion under Constantine? Did they feel at home, for example, in the splendor of Santa Maria Maggiore after the catacomb years? Or knowing those whom they had buried in the Chapel of the Popes, could they have been comfortable with the bishops who were being exalted as princes? Perhaps not. If they had our hindsight, they might have prayed for peace and, perhaps, too, only for modest power and wealth for the Church.

As we drew near Alcatraz on the ferry that shuttles visitors from San Francisco, I was reminded of a time we approached Culion Island in a banca. We could see the leprosarium buildings high on the hill. They were no longer used much, but they still looked ominous. Lepers "sentenced" to go there knew they would never leave the island (at least until a cure was found, and that came after World War II). There might just as well have been a sign, "Abandon hope who enter here." Some of the patients actually used the phrase in their letters.

The hardened convicts who took the prison boat to Alcatraz, including Al Capone, "The Birdman" Stroud, "Machine Gun" Kelly, knew they, too, would never leave the island from which no one ever escaped. Three escapees got as far as the water, but were never seen again.

We were surprised at some things we saw. The food was good. No prisoner ever complained. They ate four to a table as in a restaurant, not at the long steel tables seen in movies. There were only 250 convicts at most in the whole prison. The cells were six square meters. The convicts spent 23 hours a day in there, if they weren't working. The solitary confinement cells were steel boxes open to

the winter cold. The guards never heated that area. "The Birdman" spent 16 years in one of those cells. The guards said he was the most stubborn man they ever had there. The exercise yard was small, not as big as a football field. There was no way a man could escape the prison noise and fury, the clanging iron doors, the curses and total misery of the prisoners. A special agony of life in Alcatraz was that, according to prisoners' memoirs, they could see the lights of San Francisco, hear the sounds, and sometimes even smell the food across the water, but they would never get there.

The prison was closed in 1963 and now it is a famous tourist site. Both the catacombs and Alcatraz have ended their main historical work. They are for visitors now, but they have taken on another role: they teach the visitors some of life's most valuable lessons. It is easy to reflect on those lessons after visiting the sites. After we saw the catacombs, we walked along a dirt road through olive groves parallel to the Via Appia that the Roman legions trod on their way to Asia, including the Holy Land. We sat in the sunshine waiting for the gift shop to open. After Alcatraz, we sat in the small plaza outside the visitor's gate looking toward the Golden Gate Bridge and the Pacific.

If we asked San Callisto and Alcatraz for their understanding of human life, we might have heard: life is short, but history is long, and eternity is even longer. Live your life so there are no regrets when you grow old. The greatest suffering is to be alone. God's ways are mysterious but in the words of Juliana of Norwich, "All will be well. All manner of things will be well." Aren't these the very messages that old people can hand on to the young? We are not as dramatic as the catacombs or Alcatraz, but we have the same message to hand on.

Denis Murphy works with the Urban Poor Associates.

The truffles mystique

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



ma similar to the male pig in heat. (Surely, it doesn't sound like something you'd pay 10 cents for, but what the heck, there's no accounting for taste.) But the flavor of the truffle is related to this aroma. (Actually it's a very slight, delicate, woody smell and fantastic with pasta.)

Truffles are also found in North Africa, in the deserts in the Middle East, and in North America. Lately China has come up with its own variety, to the consternation of the French after unscrupulous dealers mixed the Chinese variety (whose taste according to the experts is insipid) with the real "black diamond." Just in case you win the lot to and decide to indulge in this overwhelming desire to buy truffles, you are advised that a good black truffle should be firm with thin, white veins. You may take a magnifying glass to examine your truffle and at \$1,000 a kilo you better do that.

On the desert after rainfall, knowledgeable Middle Eastern people collect the "black kame," *Terfezia boudieri*, and the "brown kame," *Terfezia clavari*. They prefer the darker ones. In Texas, *Tuber texensis* is collected, and in Oregon, the white *Tuber gibbosum*. James Beard, renowned American chef, claimed that the Oregon white truffle could be substituted for the European variety and costs only \$150 a pound. But whether the Europeans would ever agree with him is a different story.

A note about the Oregon variety: the Oregon white truffle is cultivated rather than grown wild.

According to the experts it lacks the complex, peppery-garlic aroma and taste of its more familiar Piedmont counterpart. However, it does have an intense flavor and aroma while the Piedmont variety is milder. It has a tangy musk and tastes fine with scrambled eggs and omelets, but soak slivers first in brandy or shaved on risotto or sprinkled on to your ordinary mushroom sauce.

You can as well incorporate them into mashed potatoes, but you're advised to drizzle truffle oil first on to the potatoes and add the raw truffle shavings on top. Using them in risotto seems more complicated because you have to cook the truffles first over very low heat for 45 minutes or so in demiglace and good red wine, before incorporating them into the risotto. You can see the problem if you don't know what demiglace is or you'd rather drink the wine instead of cooking it.

The reason for all this lecture (aside from widening your horizons in the event that truffles are not part of your classic education and you are lucky enough to win the lotto) is that good friend, Jenny Peña, thought I had lost too much weight (I'm being facetious) and needed a good meal. The truth is it was temptation too difficult to resist: sea scallops with truffles, cream of asparagus with truffle chiffonade, roasted Seabass with truffle sauce, and finally cappuccino ice cream that had nothing to do with truffles but is nonetheless delicious and therefore must be good for my soul.

You may wish to try executive chef Richard Andriue's truffle fantasies at the Prince Albert from March 1 to 12. Responding to the character of this underground culinary treasure, the chef has come up with recipes that bring out the intense flavor of these wild mushrooms in a simple but elegant manner.

Comments to bambiharper@yahoo.com

EARLIER, this column noted the speculation among House members that the reason the Senate suddenly passed the House version of the budget *in toto* and without amendments (in effect, bypassing the bicameral conference committee), was to drown out Sen. Panfilo Lacson's exposé. Lacson had alleged in a speech before Rotary members that his colleagues cut out the P1.3 billion intelligence budget only to realign it as their pork barrel allocations. I chatted with some senators and they sought to give me the impression that this was not the reason for their sudden bipartisan move on the House budget. Neither was it the desire to grant President Macapagal-Arroyo's plea. It seems that the senators, like school kids, just wanted to go on vacation starting March 18. "It's indolence that did it," one senator put it.

What about Lacson's accusation? My Senate sources pooh-poohed it, saying it was the opposition senators, like Juan Ponce Enrile and Lacson himself, who kept objecting to the P1.3 billion intel fund because P650 million of that is the Office of the President's exclusive domain. Hence, said one source, what the senators did was to "reclassify" this P1.3 billion fund into specific items—such as the retirement fund for firemen that Lacson himself wanted—so that it could be audited—unlike before when no one could poke into intel funds. The senators flatly deny that they sought to realign it to their pork barrel. Now Lacson is singing a different tune: It's not only the senators but also the House members who would have benefited from that P1.3 billion realignment. But now the matter is moot and academic.

From the way the senators put it, it was finance committee chair Manuel Villar who proposed the "surprise move." But he first checked out things, drawing from his experience as former speaker of the House who knows the innate weakness of Congress members. From Carmen Arceo, the Senate official in charge of securing visas for senators, he doubtless learned that so many of them had planned to leave for abroad right after the

DURING THE LAST months, I was privileged to visit the catacombs in Rome and Alcatraz, the former prison that sits like a chunk of granite in San Francisco Bay. They can give older people some idea of possible roles they can play in their lives.

In the San Callisto catacombs of Rome, along the ancient Via Appia, we visited one of the holiest places on earth, the Chapel of the Popes. Despite a grand name, it is a small alcove, the size of a large closet cut into the tufo rock that lines the dark and narrow passageways. Perhaps, it can contain only 10 people at a time. No effort has been made to glamorize the spot. It is rough and unattractive: primitive people could have fashioned it. Burial niches are cut into the sides and back of the alcove, and here, for hundreds of years, were buried nine second-century popes, six of them martyrs. One of the popes, a Greek, was beheaded. Another was condemned to work in the mines of Sardinia, and after he died there, Christians brought his body back to Rome.

In the eighth century, the bodies were transferred to Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome, according to our guide. We looked in that church, but couldn't find the dead popes' resting place.

While we were in the catacombs and in the narrow twisting tunnels, it was easy imagining groups of Christians with oil lamps bringing the bodies of the popes to the chapel. Rome killed popes, but it didn't interfere with the burials of any sect. Rome respected the dead of every people, if not the living. When a pope died, another man would be chosen pope, and he could expect the same short life as his predecessor. I wonder how many sought the office in those circumstances. Whether the popes of that century wound up martyred or not, they lived simple, low profile lives in a hostile world.

The early Christians might have prayed for an end to persecution and a chance to live as normal citizens with other Romans, but they had to wait until the fourth century before their prayers were granted. But were they happy with their faith af-

WHAT is black, warty and irregular in shape, varies in size from a 10-peso coin to a macopa and costs some \$1,000 a kilo? Few of us would answer "truffle," and most of us take truffles as chocolates.

For the cognoscenti and gourmards of this world, the word conjures images of the expensive French black *Tuber melanosporum* from the Perigord region in France (though most of it comes from Provence these days) that is used in making *pâté de foie gras*. There is also the white Italian truffle from the Piedmont district (*tuber magnatum pico*). Whichever one you refer to, there are all kinds of skullduggery involved with poachers "stealing" the prized mushroom and taking off with an estimated 10 percent of the truffles worth 2.1 million euros. Truffle brokers have been held up, and farmers are patrolling their fields with firearms, and all kinds of fakes are showing up in the market. Long before the discovery of Viagra and rhinoceros horns and all that sort of thing, the Greeks and the Romans were apparently on to truffles as aphrodisiacs and as medicines. Once upon a time, these mushrooms were plentiful (a thousand tons could be harvested then) but with the destruction of the forests, they have become a rare, expensive commodity in the same manner that the over-fishing of sturgeon puts caviar beyond the reach of ordinary mortals. In 1890 a harvest of 2,200 tons of truffles was reported and a record 3,000 tons were harvested in 1914. Later, only 25 to 150 tons per year have been found.

Part of the mystique, of course, is that these so-called black diamonds are harvested with the aid of female pigs and truffle dogs that cost another fortune in themselves. Since the truffles are found under the surface of the ground around Mulberry and Oak trees, the animals have to dig into the soil. Pigs are cheaper but more difficult to transport and, besides, they end up eating the truffle. Believe it or not, the truffle exudes an aro-

Is there hope amid graft?

OUR country is slowly but surely sinking deeper in the quagmire of poverty and corruption.

The value-added tax (VAT) will not solve our economic problems. It will only overburden our starving people, what with the resulting increase in the prices of prime commodities. Oil prices keep on rising. Real estate tax was also untimely increased with our economic crisis far from being over.

In the Feb. 10 issue of the IN-

QUIRER, it was reported that rich businessmen are not paying taxes or if at all, they pay a little, per assessment of tax expert Victor Abola, a tax professor of the University of Asia and the Pacific.

It is consoling that there is a glimpse of a bright future for our economy ushered in by the brilliant decision of the Supreme Court allowing foreign companies to invest in the mining industry, coupled with oil discovery in the

Sulu Seas which augurs well for war-stricken Mindanao and the entire country.

But how do we lift ourselves from the quicksand of poverty when most of our crocodiles in Congress are yearning for more pork? Why not tax the Indian nationals who are raking a fortune from sidewalk vendors?

—BENJAMIN C. DE LA FUENTE,
1858 Blumentritt St.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Nothing to do with corruption

THIS refers to the Feb. 12 column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, wherein she cited as a failure of the Church the Philippines' being notorious for having too many corrupt officials in government.

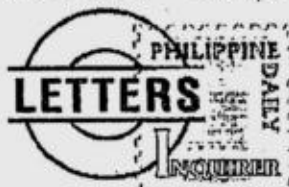
I don't think the Church is remiss in reminding the faithful about the consequences of sin.

If the government goes after the corrupt and punish them, firmly and decisively, then we can stop corruption. If people in government see officials being executed for plunder, chances are they will say the punishment is just too harsh, not worth the reward. That, I believe, is the way

we can stop corruption in this country.

Let's study the cases of countries with a very low rate of corruption like Singapore. It really has nothing to do with religion.

—NAZARIO S. CABUQUIT JR.,
89 Beverly Hills Ave.,
Beverly Hills, Antipolo City



SSS claim resolved

THIS is in reference to the letter of Lydia V. Abian which was published in the Jan. 25 issue of the INQUIRER.

Abian complained against the alleged inaction of the Social Security System on the funeral benefit of her son, Alex Abian.

Abian's funeral benefit of P1,000 was approved on Jan. 31. A check has been mailed to Abian's residence in Bago City, Negros Occidental.

For further details, we advise Abian to coordinate with our branch in Bago City.

—JOEL R. PALACIOS,
assistant vice president,
Media Affairs Department,
Social Security System,
East Avenue, Diliman, QC

Supreme Court decision sought

I AM related to the late Supreme Court Justice Mariano H. de Joya, his "H" standing for Honrade, my surname. Justice De Joya resigned from the Supreme Court—to then President Elpidio Quirino's surprise—explaining that he was going back to law practice because his salary as Supreme Court magistrate was not enough to meet the needs of his growing family. Back to law practice he did, establishing a flourishing one at Escolta, Manila.

Today, more than 50 years after, I see many lawyers who claim to be making a bundle in their law practice seeking appointment to the Supreme Court. Why? Is the salary of a Supreme Court justice so big to entice many practicing lawyers to apply as members?

By the way, I went with a friend and coconut buyer—Romy Mercado of Barangay Duhatan, Lipa City—last December 2004 to Barangay Casile, Cabuyao, Laguna to buy the CARP farmer-beneficiaries' coconut harvests. I was surprised that these farmer-bene-

ficiaries' case has been pending with the Supreme Court for more than 11 years now! According to the farmers and their leaders, they do not know of any reason why the Supreme Court has not decided the case (GR 112526: Sta. Rosa Realty Development Corp. v. Court of Appeals et al.).

They say the Yulos (landowners) already admitted during the oral argument before the Supreme Court that they did not present evidence that the land is CARP-exempt! So, what's taking the Supreme Court so long to decide the case? They believe some very influential people are interested in getting the land.

I appeal to Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. to pity the 85 CARP farmer-beneficiaries and look into this case. I know my relative Justice De Joya would not tolerate such delay. I believe the good Chief Justice Davide would do the same.

—FIDEL L. HONRADE,
Barangay Pinagtong-ulan,
Lipa City

No 'hakot' crowd

THIS is in reaction to the news item, "GMA urges Filipinos to fight graft in government" (PDI, 2/23/05) in which it was reported that the Office of External Affairs requested the mobilization of 30,000 employees from different government agencies for the celebration of the 19th anniversary of the 1986 People Power.

The precise wording of our letter to the heads of different government agencies read: "A mobilization of 30,000 people at the Edsa People Power Monument on Feb. 22, 2005 from 12 to 7 p.m. shall serve as one of the highlights of this year's commemoration."

The crowd estimate was based on the commitments made by various non-government and peoples' organizations at an anti-corruption forum held before Feb. 22.

The letter also stated: "We hope that you could enjoin the beneficiaries of your department to attend the said event." The quoted portions are self-explanatory.

The Feb. 22 rally at the Edsa People Power Monument served as the launching of the administration's reinvigorated campaign against graft and corruption. For the first time in the history of our country, we have a President who has the political will to fight corruption, as proven by the big and medium "fishes" jailed or haled to court.

We invited not only government officials and employees and beneficiaries but also all sectors of Philippine society. We know that to be able to successfully fight corruption, government must work hand-in-hand with all sectors.

The people went to Edsa on Feb. 22 to stand up against corruption, not only in government but in the private sector and the media as well. Corruption is deep-seated in our culture and only through unity can we hope to be victorious. We hope that the INQUIRER is one with us in this struggle.

—LUZVIMINDO T. DAVID,
assistant secretary,
Office of External Affairs,
Office of the President,
Malacañang, Manila

THE OEA letter to different agencies was indeed self-explanatory. It was previously reported that Luzvimindo T. David's office had asked government offices to send people to the rally. In his own words—"we hope you could enjoin the beneficiaries...to attend," "a mobilization of 30,000 people," etc., I believe it was plain to everyone what kind of rally it was. No need for prejudgments, no need for hairsplitting.

—JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA,
PDI reporter

Enemies of democracy

THERE can be no economic recovery and prosperity without peace. There can never be peace while rebels, insurgents and criminals—like the Moro National Liberation Front, Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiyah, New People's Army and other organized terrorist and criminal syndicates—roam freely and attack government forces and camps, rural and urban folk, business establishments and the peace-loving Filipinos. The government has its hands full fighting these criminals and Filipino soldiers are dying needlessly because the enemies of the state possess modern firearms and have powerful allies in government and the community.

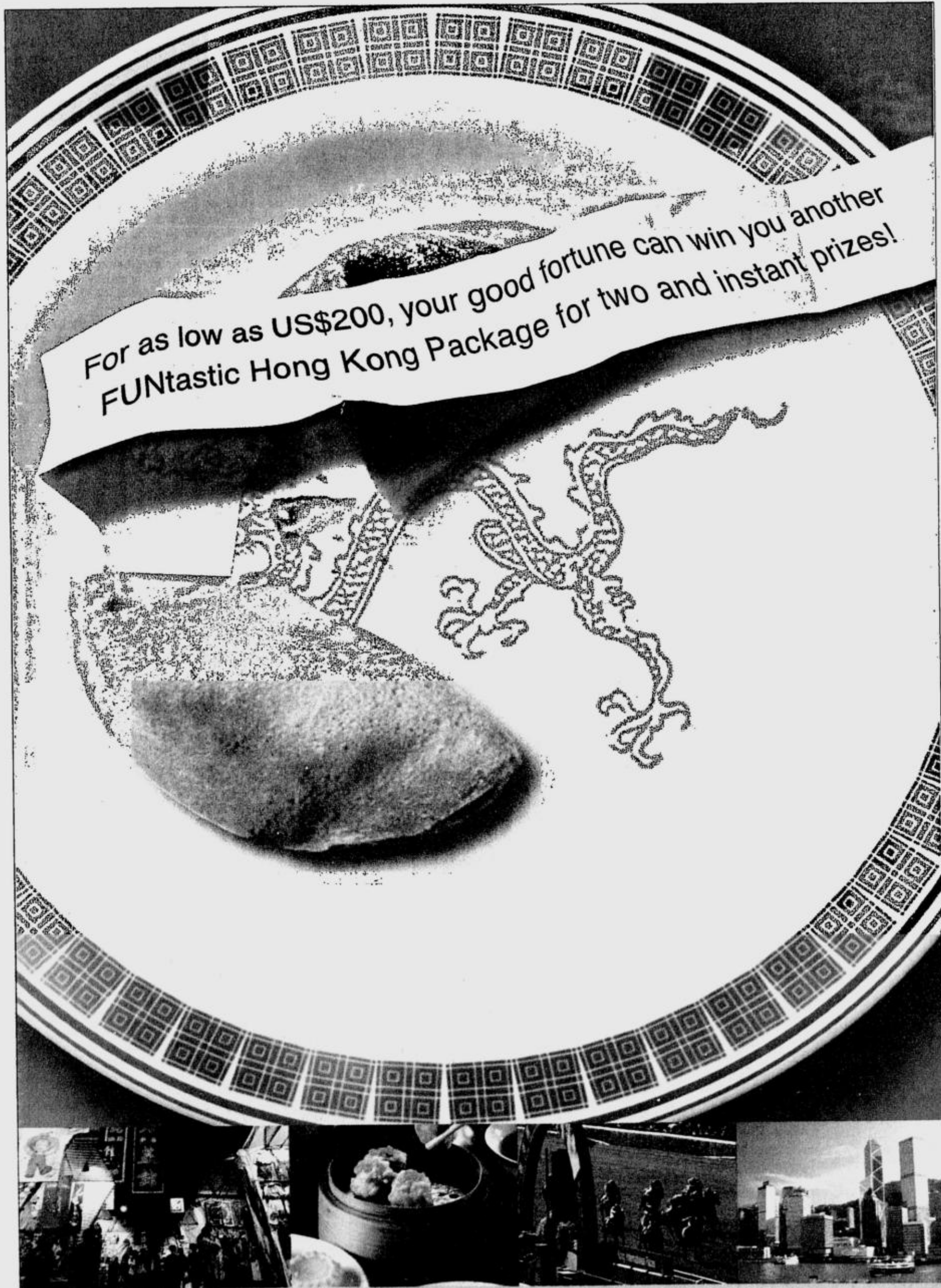
The call for a ceasefire in the Sulu fighting from some quarters only reveals that there are sectors willing to sell this country down the river to attain their personal, selfish motives. The opposition has not raised its voice against these enemies of the state. It feels that if the tide turns against the government, it will inherit the government. The opposition is terribly wrong. It will be the first to be eliminated by the terrorists and criminals.

The militants, leftists and "laman ng kalye" with their incessant demonstrations and rallies against the government, have not raised their voices against the terrorists and criminals—they just seek the downfall of the government. They are traitors and media should not glamorize them in the newspapers and television.

We are fighting for the survival of our country, democracy and freedom against those who want to impose an authoritarian and theocratic government, just like Iran's.

We cannot allow these enemies of democracy to use the democratic space to topple our democratic government and way of life.

—LEONCIO DE MESA,
University of the Philippines,
Diliman, Quezon City



A brand new Cebu Pacific FUNtastic Hong Kong Package

Take a bite out of Hong Kong's delightful shopping, dining and entertainment choices for free! Purchase a Cebu Pacific FUNtastic Hong Kong package and get a chance to win another Hong Kong package for two in our raffle draw! And if that isn't enough to make you soar, you can jetset your way to instant prizes.

Visit any Cebu Pacific office or travel agency nearest you for more details or call our reservations office at (02) 636-4938.

The Cebu Pacific FUNtastic Hong Kong Package includes:

- Roundtrip economy class airfare from Manila to Hong Kong on Cebu Pacific (Passengers from Visayas and Mindanao will be flown for free to Manila if transitting within 48 hours of their Hong Kong flight)
- Hotel accommodations in 3, 4 or 5 star hotels
- Daily breakfast
- Airport-hotel-airport transfers via airport shuttle
- One way transfer from hotel to Symphony of Lights/Avenue of Stars at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade
- No compulsory tour stops
- Optional tours available upon request

HONG KONG TOURISM BOARD
www.DiscoverHongKong.com

CEBU PACIFIC
WE'RE GOING YOUR WAY
www.cebupacificair.com

GMA turns down ... Dinky: Sulu returning to normal

From page A1

and ensure the security of our communities," Ms Arroyo said.

She said she had ordered the military to continue operations "focused on apprehending or neutralizing the remaining leaders and members of the Abu Sayyaf, as well as other groups that have forged alliances with them."

Military advice

Military officials have reportedly urged the President, who faced down a coup attempt in 2003, not to declare a ceasefire.

"The government understands our feelings. We lost so many men," said one Army colonel who asked not to be identified.

"If she won't listen to us, she faces the risk of a revolt," he said.

The President commended the military for taking control of 45 Jolo island lairs and sanctuaries used by followers of Misuari and the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang.

She said security forces and local officials would oversee the safe return of the thousands of people who fled the fighting and help them rebuild their communities.

The President also ordered the presidential adviser on the peace process "to lead consultations among military commanders, local officials, Muslim representatives in the Congress and religious and civil society leaders to consolidate the peace and maintain law and order" in Jolo.

To file criminal charges

She also said she had issued orders to file criminal complaints against those responsible for "these acts of terrorism."

In a press conference yesterday, Malacañang officials claimed the government had now taken control in Sulu and the operations there were now focused on pursuit of the remaining band of rebels led by Ustadz Habier Malik and on rehabilitating and rebuilding the province.

They said a large delegation of officials would be flying to the

province today to jump-start the process.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said "smaller teams" of police and military would be hunting down Malik and his gang who, Army chief Lt. Gen. Generoso Senga said, were "very mobile and difficult to pinpoint."

Rebels scattered

Most of the rebel MNLF forces scattered after their headquarters was captured on Feb. 15 and the military has been concentrating its attention on the Abu Sayyaf in other parts of the island.

By the Army's count, 33 soldiers and up to 100 rebels have been killed in the fighting, which started when hundreds of rebels ambushed a convoy of soldiers.

Nearly 4,000 soldiers, including several hundred recent reinforcements, have been fighting about 800 militants from the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group and rogue members of the MNLF.

Some members of the MNLF, unhappy with a peace deal that the group concluded with the government in 1996, have forged alliances with the Abu Sayyaf on Jolo, where both groups have strongholds.

Cruz said criminal complaints against Malik and other leaders would be filed in two to three weeks' time.

Asked if Misuari would be among those charged, Cruz side-stepped the question, saying the complaint would be "based on the evidence gathered by the military and police."

The worst fighting in the Philippines in two years has raised tensions across the country.

Abu Sayyaf spokespersons have claimed responsibility for three coordinated bomb attacks on Valentine's Day in the Mindanao cities of Davao and General Santos and in Makati, which killed 13 people and wounded more than 150.

A third suspect in the bombing had been arrested. (Story on Page A1.) AFP Reuters and AP with reports from Julie S. Alpala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Christine Avendaño

SOCIAL Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman yesterday said the situation in Sulu was slowly returning to normal, with the number of refugees in various evacuation centers now down from a high of 80,000 to only 36,000. One third of the evacuees are children.

In an update that she gave the media on the Sulu conflict, Soliman said the fighting was now confined to Panamao and Look towns.

Many of the families which fled when the fighting started had returned to their homes, she said.

A few were, however, still "looking at the situation with fear" and refused to return until the war was over.

"The refugees wanted the government to declare a ceasefire so they can start the rehabilitation process," Soliman said, adding that she could not comment on

the proposal as it was solely a presidential decision.

P1.7-M relief aid

She said P1.7 million has so far been spent in relief assistance, with half of the amount coming from the local governments and non-governmental organizations.

Teresita Quintos-Deles, the presidential adviser on the peace process, said the damage from the fighting had been "very contained."

Cruz said most of the clashes occurred in the province's forested areas "away from the communities ... so the damage is not that big."

In Zamboanga City, a US State Department official said the US would continue to provide development aid to Sulu, particularly for MNLF communities, despite the recent outbreak of fighting.

Portia McCollum, the depart-

ment's deputy director for the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei, told reporters that the US was in fact looking forward to funding more projects in the war-torn province.

"Absolutely yes. Why should we not?" McCollum said.

She said the US prefers a peaceful settlement to the conflict.

"We hope that the two parties will come together for a peace settlement and we hope that happens soon," she said.

McCollum was visiting with John Dalton, program manager of the Growth for Equity in Mindanao (GEM) and Jocelyn Daway of the US Aid for International Development (USAID) which is funding the GEM.

2 solar dryers

During her visit, McCollum turned over two solar dryers to

former MNLF rebels in the villages of Talabaan and Sangali and at least 10 computers with Internet connection to a secondary school in Barangay Manicahan.

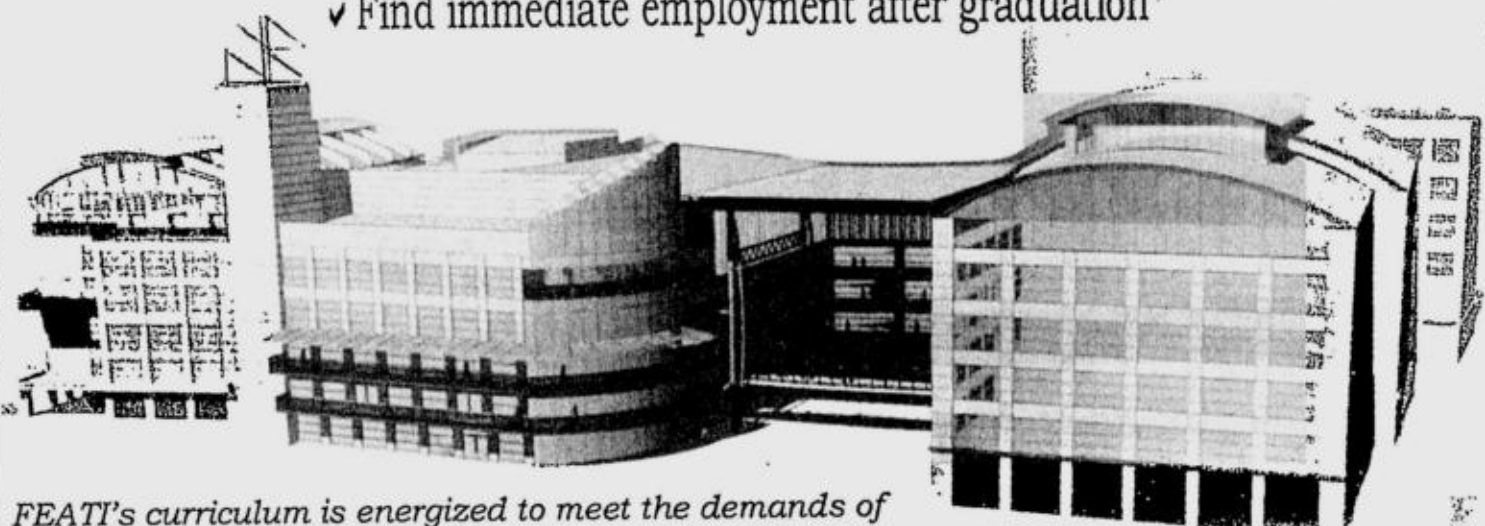
Dalton said the resurgence of violence in Sulu was sad because it occurred when development projects were pouring into the island-province.

Noel Ruiz, program manager of GEM's Livelihood Enhancement and Peace (LEAP) program, said some of those who joined Habier Malik, who led the MNLF forces that attacked government troops in Sulu, were beneficiaries of the project.

McCollum said as soon as the conflict in Sulu was settled, the US government would start building more farm-to-market roads, schools and other projects to help the province to develop.

FEATI prepares you for a global future

- ✓ Be proficient in English — call center-ready
- ✓ Be adept in IT applications
- ✓ Enjoy world-class facilities
- ✓ Find immediate employment after graduation

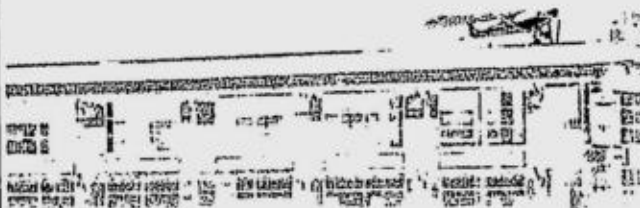


FEATI's curriculum is energized to meet the demands of the 21st century. The GradSPrep program is designed to ensure that excellent graduates will find immediate employment, as they move from the campus to their chosen professional fields.

On its 59th year, FEATI University is proud to be a leading school, producing achievers in the fields of Aeronautics, Marine Transportation, Engineering, and Technology.

The colleges of Architecture and Fine Arts, Arts, Sciences and Education, and Information Technology, have been revitalized with professors of high repute.

All branches of learning are provided with state-of-the-art facilities, simulators and laboratories of cutting edge technology.



COURSES OFFERED

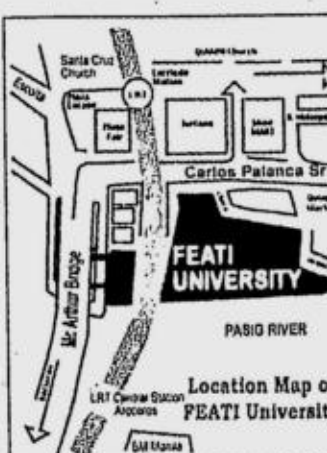
College of Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Aircraft Maintenance Technology
Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Geodetic Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

College of Maritime Education

Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Marine Transportation

College of Architecture and Fine Arts

Bachelor of Science in Architecture
Bachelor of Fine Arts-Commercial Design major in Advertising



FOR INQUIRIES:

Admissions Office: 733-8321 to 25
736-7450, 736-7441, 0920-2601184

College of Business
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration major in Banking & Finance / Economics / Management

College of Arts, Sciences and Education
Bachelor of Arts major in Economics/ English/ Filipino/ Mathematics
Bachelor of Science in Education major in English/ Filipino/ Mathematics
Bachelor of Science in Industrial Education major in Electronics/ Computers

CERTIFICATE/ SHORT COURSE

TESDA-Accredited Highly Skilled Occupational Courses
Computer Engineering Technology (CET)—3 years
Certificate in Electronics and Computer Technology (ECT)—2 years
Computerized Audio-Video Technician Course (CATC)—1 year

Electrical Engineering Certificate Courses
Electrical Technology

Information Technology Short Courses
Basic/ Advanced Computer Graphics Animation
Basic/ Advanced Microsoft Word, Basic Microsoft Excel
Microsoft Powerpoint, Visual Foxpro, Visual Basic

Short Courses
Computer Secretarial Course
Certificate in Computer Commercial Science

(Under CHED Application)
Bachelor of Science in Customs Administration



AFP wants stiff ...

From page A1

"They kill and bomb then [the media] give them the opportunity to talk. It's stupidity on the part of some media to allow these terrorists or people identified with terrorist groups to air their complaints," he went on.

The United States has black-listed both the Abu Sayyaf and the Communist Party and its armed group, the New People's Army, as terrorist organizations.

Malacañang and other officials have also publicly branded the Abu Sayyaf as terrorist.

Adan's logic

"The CPP-NPA commits terrorist acts. It is a terrorist group," Adan told the INQUIRER when pressed for clarification about the CPP/NPA status.

Asked if interviewing CPP personalities, like chief National Democratic Front negotiator Luis Jalandoni or Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal would make media vulnerable under the proposed law, Adan said: "We're not singling out personalities because the law is generic."

"In the law we are referring to terrorist groups without any reference to any particular group."

Radio interviews

Adan, in his talk with reporters, railed against media organizations "who allow known terrorists or terrorist organizations to use their facilities to air anti-people, anti-state sentiments and incite the people to rebel against their government."

Government and military officials have complained in the past against media interviews with people they have tagged as "terrorists."

They were particularly flabbergasted when some radio stations would regularly interview Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya, until he was killed in an encounter with government forces in June 2002.

Recently, AFP officials also complained when some radio stations interviewed Habier Malik, who led Moro National Liberation Front forces that attacked government troops in Sulu last month.

CPP's Rosal is also regularly interviewed by print and broadcast media.

Adan clarified that what the military wanted banned were interviews with "known terrorists."

"We must distinguish between those legitimately expressing their grievances and the terror-

ists," he said.

Adan said without an antiterrorism legislation, law enforcers were hard put to stop terrorism.

"We need an antiterrorism law to decisively deal with, to disrupt terrorists from their alliances, their finances, to stop agitators and propagandists who are in favor of certain terrorist groups," he said.

RP is weakest link

"We are one of the weakest in terms of legal weapons in fighting terrorism because we have a sizable number of terrorist-linked groups and yet we don't have the law to deal with them decisively," Adan added.

"We need tough laws in order to make sure that they go behind bars and prevent them from reorganizing again and being resurrected once they are released from short sentences," he said.

Adan noted that the penalty for terrorist acts in some countries was "life imprisonment or death."

Under current laws, suspected terrorists are charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives, allowing them to post or jump bail, he said.

Punishable by death

"We want terrorism to be categorized as a heinous crime punishable by death," he said.

Adan also said "illegal possession of high-powered firearms, high-caliber ammunition and explosives in furtherance of terrorism or rebellion" should be punishable by death.

He added that the military also wanted tougher penalties for possession and use of military uniforms, paraphernalia and equipment.

He used as example military radios captured by rebels during encounters.

"The mere possession of that will already serve as evidence that [a person] is involved with these terrorists," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has asked Congress to remedy the perceived weakness in the law, but the proposed measures are meeting resistance from civil rights groups, which fear the law could be used to crack down on the political opposition.

Antiterrorism statutes in other Southeast Asian countries allow for the indefinite detention of terrorist suspects.

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz echoed Adan's call, saying antiterrorism legislation would be of great help in the fight against militant groups. With an AFP report

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Lagazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: lnq_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: lnq_davao@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

7 wounded as kidnap gang avenges members' deaths

LAMBAYONG, Sultan Kudarat—Seven civilians, including three children aged three to 11, were seriously wounded when Pentagon gunmen attacked Barangay Pimbalayan here Thursday evening, the military said yesterday.

Col. Gerry Jalandoni, chief of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, said the attack was in retaliation for the Feb. 28 Army offensive in Sultan sa Barongis, Maguindanao that left at least eight Pentagon gang members killed.

"The attackers wanted to avenge

the death of their comrades, that was why they attacked Barangay Pimbalayan where there's an Army base," Jalandoni told the INQUIRER.

He said a still undetermined number of Pentagon gunmen fired several rocket-propelled grenades into an Army base around 10 p.m. but the explosives ended up in residential areas.

One of the rockets exploded at the house of Datu Junjun Mamaluba, a former rebel.

Aside from Mamaluba, the other injured victims included 36-

year-old Ruwaida Datua, and her children Pogi Datua, 7, Manlang Datua, 8, and Pahad Datua, 3.

The two other victims were only identified as Nibanudin, 9 and Benjamin, 11.

Elements of the 66th IB, under Col. Alexander Macario, have pursued the attackers, engaging them in a brief gunfight near the Liguasan Marsh on the side of Maguindanao.

No casualty on either side have been reported.

The Pentagon, blamed for various high-profile kidnappings in

Central and Southern Mindanao, Maguindanao, the Lanao provinces and the Zamboanga Peninsula, has been the object of military operations in recent days.

Last year, the military also bombed a suspected Pentagon lair in the Liguasan Marsh that killed several bandits.

It was founded by former Moro National Liberation Front (MNL) leader Faisal Marohomb-sar.

Edwin Fernandez and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau



FLOWERS' DOMAIN JERRY CARUAL/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Flowers make Baguio City and provinces north of it famous and are the reasons for the holding of the summer capital's annual flower festival.

BIR informant held on estafa raps cry injustice

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A Bureau of Internal Revenue informant in at least five cases of alleged tax evasion and non-payment of taxes worth P1 billion had been arrested on an estafa case for which he was convicted.

Oscar Timbol, who shortly served as consultant in Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo's poverty alleviation program, assailed BIR officials for "totally ignoring" him amid the government's renewed campaign against corruption.

Timbol, 51, said he was arrested by the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in General Santos City last Thursday on a tip provided by a dismissed military official.

He was temporarily placed in the custody of the provincial warden here before he was transferred to the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa City where he was to serve his term of six to 12 years.

Timbol's arrest came seven years after he exposed in November 1998 the alleged tax fraud by businessman Rodolfo Jao, a director of the JaoVil Realty and

Development Corp., Pampanga Development Bank and Systems Plus Computer College.

Timbol claimed he worked as administrator of Jao's properties from 1995 to 1998.

In previous interviews, Jao had denied cheating the government of taxes. He claimed that Timbol's exposés were the results of Jao's feud with his brother, Perico, whose side Timbol took.

Timbol said he was arrested on an expired warrant for an estafa case for which he claimed he was tried in absentia by a court here.

But even while behind bars now, he appeared bent in calling attention to what he called "authenticity of my claims and sincerity of my campaign for the benefit of the cash-strapped government and small taxpayers."

On Friday, he wore a white shirt urging "Jail the tax evader, not the tax informant!"

He said the last time he sought the help of President Macapagal-Arroyo was on Jan. 14, 2003.

"But surely the BIR could not just ignore my complaints, for the information submitted were indeed substantial," he added.

ROUNDUP

Passports in Mindoro

CITY OF CALAPAN—For the first time, the Department of Foreign Affairs regional mobile staff will issue passports in Mindoro in May. Application for passports will be on May 7 and the release will be on May 14, according to the Office of the Civil Registrar here. Many passport applicants are expected to come because it will cost them only P500 to P700 to get a passport, which is cheaper than the fees at travel agencies.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Kalahi cultural services

CITY OF CALAPAN—A team from the National Commission on Culture and the Arts came to Oriental Mindoro to launch the Kalahi cultural services. They met with agencies that will help identify youths with talents in music and dancing. A workshop will be held on April 18 in Saglag, San Teodoro.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Adopt-a-school launched

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Department of Education and the provincial government have formally launched the Adopt-a-School Program by unveiling the sign in front of Adriatico Memorial Elementary School here. First launched in 1998 by then Education Secretary Andrew Gonzales, the program includes six packages where interested groups may help. These are infrastructure, teaching and skills learning, supplies, computer and science laboratory with library and books, food, and nutrition.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police seize hot lumber

CITY OF CALAPAN—An estimated 6,000 board feet of assorted lumber was intercepted by police led by SPO2 Primitivo Lojo, commander of the Police Community Precinct 1 at the city pier at about 4 p.m. on Wednesday. The police brought the truck to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Barangay Suqui, for investigation. DENR chief Juan de la Cruz said planted fruit trees were mixed with the cargo. "The shipper is a certain Bong from Gloria town," said Pablo Santos of the DENR-Forest Management Service. He added that the owner showed a photocopy of a permit with an expired date.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected robber slain

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—A suspected member of a robbery gang was killed in a gunfight with policemen in Pinukpuk, Kalinga on Feb. 28. Police identified the slain suspect as Joel Duguilawa, 25, a member of the Tawagon gang. Chief Supt. Jesus Versoza, Cordillera police director, said the members of the gang, led by Alex Tawagon, were facing cattle rustling and robbery charges in Pinukpuk and nearby towns. Versoza said Duguilawa died while being taken to the Pinukpuk District Hospital.

Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cop killed in ambush

STA. LUCIA, Ilocos Sur—A policeman was shot and killed by armed men in Barangay Suwayagan here on Thursday. Police said SPO2 Romeo Abrero of Santa Cruz town was driving his car along the national highway when he was ambushed by at least three men armed with M-16 Armalite rifles. Abrero, who was assigned to the Intelligence unit of Ilocos Sur police, died instantly.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Pay Bills with
BancNet
pwede!

UTILITIES: MERALCO **TELCOs:** PLDT, Globe, Smart, Digitel, Innove, Extelcom, Eastern Telecoms, PT&T **CABLE TV:** SkyCable, Home Cable **INTERNET:** Infocom, Greendot **LOANS:** Citystate Loan, Standard Chartered EZ Loan (Soon: Manila Water, Maynilad)

CREDIT CARDS-MASTERCARD AND VISA: AIG, Bankard, Citibank, Metrobank, HSBC, Standard Chartered, East West Bank **OTHER MAJOR CREDIT CARDS:** Allied Bank VISA, Banco Filipino VISA, MMO Card, One Card International, SICC Diners and Mastercard

INSURANCE AND OTHER PRE-NEED COMPANIES: Fortune Care, Fortune Life, Lifetime Plans, Manila Bankers Life, Pacific Plans, Provident Plans, Prudential Life, South Sea Insurance, Sun Life of Canada, Sun Life Financial Plans

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS: Bantay Bata, Knowledge Channel, Piso Para Sa Pasig, Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints, Far East Broadcasting **MORE:** PSC E-Pass Reload, Manila Memorial Park, Directories Philippines, FG Financial, NSO Helpline

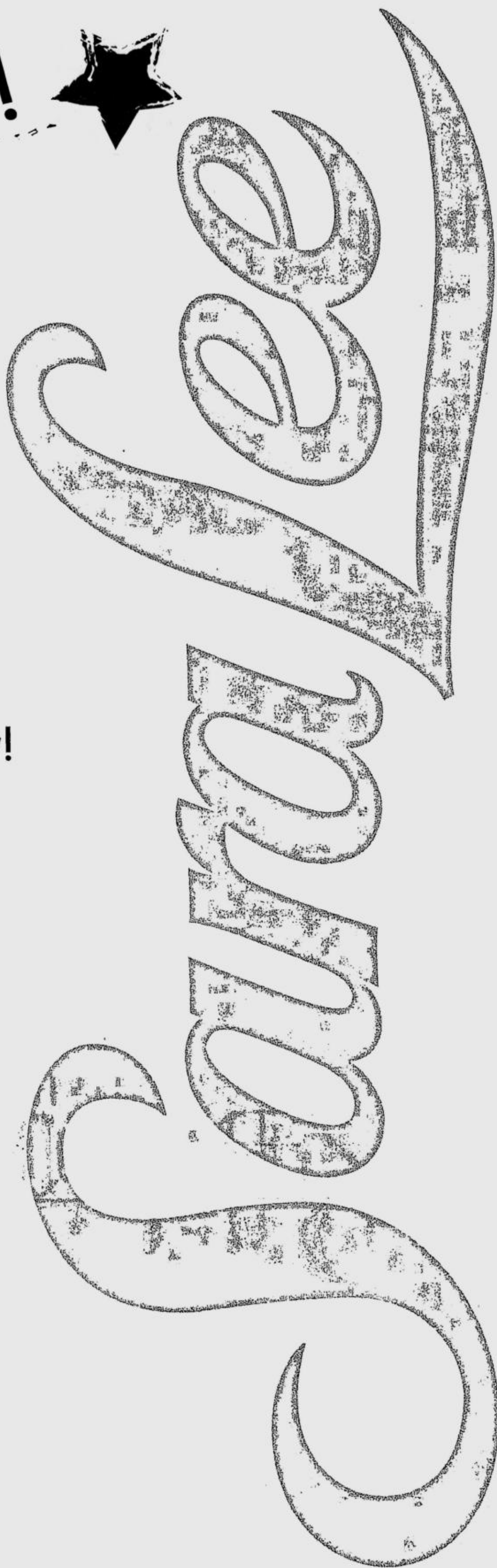
Use your BancNet ATM card in over 2,000 ATMs nationwide or through www.bancnetonline.com

✓ No enrollment ✓ No transaction fees ✓ No worries

CONGRATULATIONS!



SaraLee
Direct Selling



Yes, we did it again this February!

**ANOTHER
RECORD-BREAKING
ANNIVERSARY
MONTH!**

Many thanks to all our dealers
for your endless support!

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO MORE SUCCESSFUL
ANNIVERSARIES!**

Exclusive Distributor of

Playtex
Fit that's true to you!

Hanes

THE ONE AND ONLY
wonderbra

*Just My
Size*

Champion

girls'
attitudes

nutrimetics
naturally

COLOUR COLLECTION

*Beauty
Touch*

IVANA

COOL
SPLASH!

Zwilling

HAVE THE DRIVE TO SUCCEED. BE A SARA LEE DISTRIBUTOR! GET READY TO GO PLACES! CALL THE BRANCH NEAREST YOU.

For inquiries, please call 810-5402 or write to customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

DIRECT SELLING ASSOCIATION
OF THE PHILIPPINES **DSA**

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Rio Dome: Cool, cheap housing model

By Carla P. Gomez
Escalante City

HOW biz personality Rio Diaz Cojuangco's legacy of wanting to help the poor lives on in Negros Occidental's Escalante City in an unusual structure made of earth bags and envisioned to bring down the cost of mass housing and conserve the environment.

Called the "Rio Dome," the egg-shaped prototype in Hacienda Fe looks like an alien dwelling place straight out of a science fiction movie. It was built by Rio's nephew, Illac Diaz, 32, head of the MyShelter Foundation, and inaugurated on Monday by Diaz, Escalante Mayor Santiago Barcelona and Negros Occidental Rep. Tranquilino Carmona (first district).

"This technology can be replicated to build houses even in tsunami-hit areas," Diaz said.

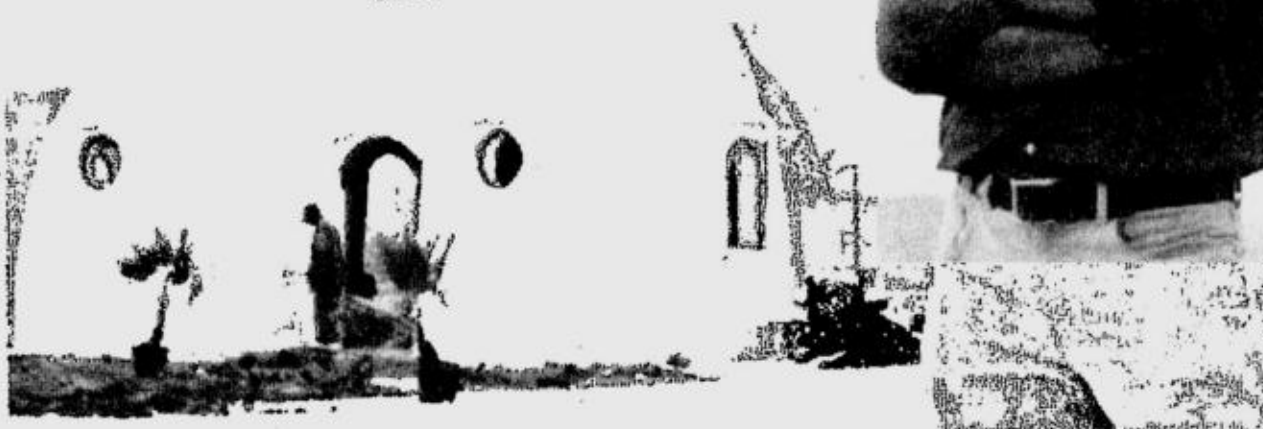
He said he put up his housing model because his aunt had often talked about how the province had given her so much and that if there was anything anyone could do for the Negrenses, it should be done right there.

"My Tita Rio gave me the vision for the work I have gotten involved in," he said. Rio, the wife of Rep. Carlos Cojuangco (fifth district), died of cancer last year.

Diaz dedicated the Rio Dome to her "who inspired me to come here and to serve the people of Negros."

"Even though she has passed away, her legacy, through small efforts by the Diaz family, will continue to benefit the people whom she had loved," Diaz said.

Diaz, the son of Rio's brother Ramon and Sylvana Diaz, is a literature and management



ILLAC Diaz in front of the "Rio Dome" in Escalante City.

CHARLIE CO/CONTRIBUTOR

graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and an entrepreneurship graduate of the Asian Institute of Management.

He described himself as a "social entrepreneur who creates sustainable solutions to alleviate poverty." To do this, he said, he had explored innovative solutions to mass housing.

Through the AIM Alumni Foundation, he found that Mayor Barcelona had a vision for Escalante and would be receptive to new kinds of innovations.

The prototype house uses mud, packed in rice sacks which are piled up and held by barbed wire to create a dome-like structure.

Construction cost

Built on a 42-square-meter lot, the Rio Dome is 20 degrees cooler than an ordinary house, complete with a living area, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. It cost the city government about P500,000 to put up, but Diaz said the amount could be considerably



RENOVED artist Charlie Co explaining his artwork on the ceiling of the "Rio Dome" to Illac Diaz.

CARLA P. GOMEZ

'This technology can be replicated to build houses even in tsunami-hit areas'

brought down once it was mass-produced.

Diaz explained that the prototype cost was high because he experimented with different construction techniques before developing the earth bag building technology.

Barcelona said a replica of the Rio Dome could not be produced for less than half the cost. Hopefully, he said, mass production could further reduce the amount to at least P50,000 per unit.

While wood and galvanized iron roofing had been eliminated as housing materials in the Rio Dome, Diaz gave assurance that the structure was very sturdy and structurally sound.

Sugarcane cement

He said he had also discovered that cement could be made from sugarcane waste.

"Sugarcane ash cooked in lime has the same compression rate as cement," Diaz said. "As a result, we can make strong, durable, earthquake-, water- and fire-resistant structures made of materials that do not have to be bought in stores."

Diaz said he had trained members of the community on how to use the technology for building extensions for their homes, water tanks and septic tanks.

"The vision for this is incredible, we can build lakes with this... small reservoirs so we will not have irrigation problems, roads, fish farm ponds, rice storage facilities," Diaz said.

Barcelona said the prototype would serve as the tourism center of Escalante.

Renowned Negrense artist Charlie Co painted the ceiling of the house with images from Escalante's history, including sugarcane workers, the city's reliance on fishing, the people's deep faith in God, and even the tragic Escalante Massacre, in which 20 persons were killed during the dark years of the Marcos dictatorship in the '70s.

12 years of superb accommodations and entertainment...

12 years of sumptuous flavours and warm hospitality...

12 GREAT and EXCITING reasons to choose

LEGENDA
HOTELGRAND
SEASONS
HOTEL
SUBIC BAYLEGENDA
SUITES

12 LEGENDARY RAFFLE BONANZA

12 P2,000,000.00

12 MEGA PROMO

PROMO MECHANICS

- Guests are entitled to one raffle coupon through any of the following:
 - Minimum room rate receipt of PhP4,200 net per room per night.
 - F&B single receipt of P2,250 in the following restaurants: Le Café, Highland Café, Lobby Lounge and Neptune Club.
 - F&B single receipt of PhP4,500 in the following restaurants: Museum Chinese Restaurant, Feng Huang and Four Seasons Restaurant.
 - A minimum buy-in of PhP5,600 worth of non-negotiable chips for table games or a minimum buy-in of PhP2,250 worth of slot machine tokens.

- Guests shall loggily fill out the raffle coupon with complete name, address, telephone number and signature. Coupons may be dropped in designated boxes located at the Front Desks of Legend Hotel, Grand Seasons Hotel, Legend Suites or at the casino of Legend Hotel.
- The promo period is from March 1, 2005 until February 28, 2006.
- Monthly raffle draw date will be held every 12th day of each month starting April 2005 and ending March 2006.
- Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash:
 - Eight Monthly Draws (Prizes): Three (3) PhP1,200 cash, Seven (7) F&B Gift Certificates worth PhP1,200 and Two (2) Non-negotiable chips worth PhP12,000.

- Two Quarterly Draws (Prizes): Three (3) PhP12,000 cash, Five (5) Accommodation with F&B Gift Certificates and Four (4) Non-negotiable chips worth PhP12,000.
- One Semi-Annual Draw (Prizes): One (1) PhP120,000 cash, Three (3) Accommodation with F&B Gift Certificates, Two (2) Legend Gold Club membership and Six (6) Non-negotiable chips worth PhP12,000.
- One Final Draw (Prizes): One (1) PhP1,200,000 cash, Five (5) Legend Gold Club membership, Two (2) Non-Negotiable Chips worth PhP12,000, Two (2) Accommodation with F&B Gift Certificates and Two (2) PhP12,000 cash.
- Final draw date: March 12, 2006.
- An entry can win only once each draw. If an entry is drawn more than once, the prize of the highest value will be awarded. Non-winning entries in the monthly

- draw will be qualified for the final draw. All draws will be conducted in the presence of a DTI representative.
- Winners will be notified through registered mail. The list of winners will be posted at the Front Desks of Legend Hotel, Grand Seasons Hotel and Legend Suites. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the draw date shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI.
- The 20% tax on prizes exceeding PhP10,000 shall be shouldered by the winner.
- Employees of Legend International Resorts Ltd. (LIRL), their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

LEGENDARY
GETAWAYS
GRAND RAFFLE PROMOCONGRATULATIONS
TO THE GRAND PRIZE WINNER
BRAND NEW PEUGEOT 206cc
ELISA RABINO OF SSS VILLAGE, MARIKINA CITY

MINOR PRIZE WINNERS

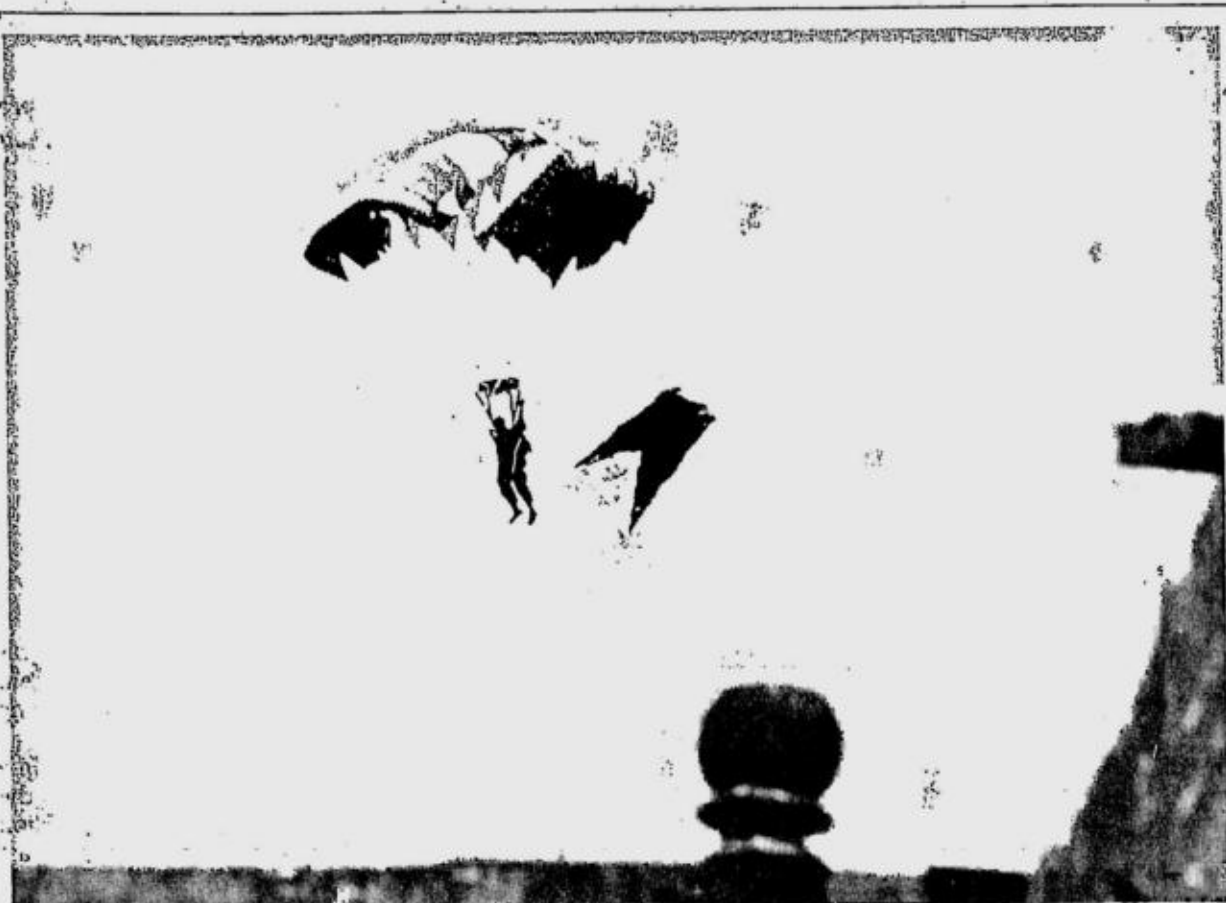
VACATION PACKAGE TO KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA: (1) Jeff Croucher (2) May Galang, Panganga (3) Tom Monahan, Indianapolis, USA (4) Chia Weng, Olongapo City (5) Lilia Viscayno, Subic Bay

LEGENDARY GOLD CLUB MEMBERSHIP: (1) Adelo Abines, Bataan (2) Puring Bongco, Olongapo City (3) Fatie Simmons, Oceanside, CA USA (4) Lourdes Henry, Olongapo City (5) Sarah Tillouson, Zambales

Winners will be notified through registered mail. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from the draw date shall be forfeited with prior approval of DTI. Draw was conducted in the presence of a DTI representative. Per DTI-ZPO permit No. 06 series of 2004



LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LTD., Waterfront Road, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales, Philippines 2222
Tel (63-2) 732-9888 . (63-47) 252-1888 . Fax (63-2) 712-8575 . E-mail: sales@legendanet.com . Website: www.subiclegend.com

**REMEMBERING WAR**

A skydiver carries the Philippine flag as he descends on Corregidor Island during the commemoration of the island's struggle against Japanese invaders during World War II.

PDI PHOTO

6 DENR execs face ax for logging connivance

NAGUILIAN, Isabela—The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has relieved the environment chief here and suspended five other officers in Cagayan Valley for issuing fake transport documents to wood transporters.

Antonio Principe, DENR Cagayan Valley executive director, relieved Celso Aresta, community environment and natural resources officer (Cenro), in this town on March for command responsibility.

Suspended for 90 days were Ronnie Rey Briones and Jerry Santiago, both of Cenro-Naguilian; and Gene Martin, Jerry Respicio and Taripato Sagun Jr., all of Cenro-Nagtipunan in Quirino.

Principe said the five foresters issued fake transport documents of wood products intercepted in Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan, and in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

Aresta, who was temporarily detailed at the DENR-Cagayan Valley regional office forestry division, was replaced by forestry specialist Arnold Frogoso.

Principe said Aresta was liable for command responsibility in logging-prone San Mariano and Ilagan towns.

He, however, said the investigation showed there were no direct pieces of evidence to show that Aresta connived with his two sus-

pected foresters.

"Continuous monitoring is being done now to ensure a clean up of erring workers in our agency. Law enforcement activities have been regularly done, especially in San Mariano town," Principe told the INQUIRER.

Environment officials in the regions are guarding the forests amid reports of rampant logging by illegal loggers who are believed to have been supported by some environment officials.

But Felix Taguba, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said there is no illegal logging in San Mariano.

He said a series of operations netted at least 4,000 board feet of seized cut wood products in the town this week.

"Only timber poaching is being monitored. Besides, we are now intensifying our operations to enforce the environmental laws," he said.

Members of the Diocese of Ilagan Multi-Sectoral Action Group for Environmental Protection in San Mariano earlier assailed environment officials for being "unscrupulous and greedy in abusing the environment, especially the remaining portions of the virgin forests in San Mariano and neighboring areas." Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Use of insecticides killing honey trade in Abra farming town

BOLINEY, Abra—Honey yield in this town has dropped by at least 70 percent due to the use of insecticides in mango orchards, a local official said.

Alonzo Peter, municipal planning and development officer, said insecticides sprayed into the town's mango trees have killed honey-producing bees.

"When honeybees travel to sip nectar from [the flowers of] mango trees [sprayed with insecticides], they fail to return [to their hives] because they get poisoned and die," he said.

"Using chemical spray on mangoes has decreased beehives near the settlements. Honey gatherers now have to travel farther to find beehives," he said.

Peter, however, said the decline in the number of beehives in Boliney has helped the town's forests recover because there were fewer incidents of forest fires resulting from unattended bonfires.

Bonfires

Gatherers here said they build bonfires beneath hives so the smoke would drive away the bees and allow them to harvest honey.

"One good thing about the decrease in the number of beehives is our forests are protected from

fire," he said.

Peter said gatherers used to look for the *allid* (honeycomb), which could be turned into candle and wax, because this could be sold at a higher price. "Now, honey is more expensive," he said.

He said honey gathering is not forbidden in the community but *lapat* ordinances on forest fires are enforced.

Lapat is a century-old system of regulating the use of natural resources among the upland Tingguian tribes in Abra.

"We do not prohibit it (honey gathering) but people are expected to be very careful in containing forest fires. The fine would depend on the damage done. The person found violating the *lapat* could be asked to butcher a dog or a carabao," Peter said.

Peak season

He said the peak season for honey gathering is from January to April. He said honey gathered in November last year easily spoiled because these were mixed with rainwater.

First class honey usually comes from the nectar of narra flowers, Peter said. Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Moms told not to leave daughters to male kin

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The increasing number of rapes involving family members in North Cotabato has prompted the social welfare office to caution mothers against entrusting their female children "to your husbands or any older male members of the family" when they leave their homes.

Zaida Rinsulat, provincial social welfare officer, said mothers should "be very, very careful."

At least 9 of the 17 cases of

abuse against women and children recorded in December last year were incestuous.

It was noted that most of the victims came from the indigenous communities.

"We are not supposed to leave our little girls under the care of our husbands, or adult male children, as our way of protecting them against abuses," she said.

Rinsulat said that more often than not, abuses against little girls by family members hap-

pen when the mother is away—leaving the victim and the perpetrator all by themselves at home.

She said that part of the responsibility of mothers is to make sure that their children, especially the girls who are vulnerable to abuses, are safe.

"We can't be so sure especially if our husbands or our older male children are into drugs or alcohol. These substances can twist the mind of anybody... these substances can bring out

the devil in anybody," Rinsulat said.

The latest case of rape committed by a family member was discovered by the provincial Crisis Intervention Center in Magpet town.

The girl was allegedly raped by his elder brother.

But the CIC said the girl's mother was reluctant to file charges against the son, who is also the family breadwinner. Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

KAPAG NAKAGAT NG ASO, WAG NANG HINTAYIN PANG MAY MAULOL.

Iwasang mamatay sa rabis. Kapag nakagat ng aso o pusa, tumawag agad sa ABC Emergency Hotline sa 816-1111 o magtungo sa pinakamalapit na Animal Bite Center.

ANG RABIS MABANGIS

ABC
Animal Bite Center

EMERGENCY HOTLINE
816-1111

DepED

Aventis Pasteur
sanofi aventis

Only P350M available for sugar producers

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—Sugar producers could only get P350 million of the P8 to P10 billion it had hoped to borrow from the Land Bank of the Philippines for their sugar clearing house.

President Macapagal-Arroyo on Wednesday revealed that the amount was the most that the Land Bank could lend the sugar producers because they could not come up with the equity for a multi-billion loan package.

Leaders of the sugar industry, however, said they were not giving up on their plan to set up the clearing house that would ensure stable prices for sugar and would meet with LBP president Margarito Teves again as well as explore the help of other banks.

At a press conference at Hacienda Remedios in La Carlota City on Wednesday, the President said the purpose of the loan was not the problem but the credit-worthiness of the borrower.

"A borrower has to be credit-worthy and there are certain tests of their credit-worthiness in standard banking practices. One of them is the debt to equity ratio—if they were to borrow from a private bank, they would be required a debt-equity ratio

of 75–25. Land Bank has been trying to be as lenient as possible and requires a debt-to-equity ratio of 90 to 10," she said.

But Ms Arroyo said she was informed by Teves that the sugar producers could not even comply with the 90 to 10 ratio.

"I asked Gary how much can you lend because, in the past, Land Bank almost collapsed because of behest loans and we don't want that to happen again, and he said, given their debt to equity ratio, the most we can loan them is about P350 million," Arroyo said.

The President, however, said that Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap had informed her that with P350 million, a lot could already be done to help the sugar industry.

Yap, in a separate press conference Wednesday, explained that the National Food Authority was able to hold sugar prices with a P200-million fund.

"If the LBP lends the sugar producers P350 million plus the NFA standby fund, that would do a lot to help the industry," he said, and "the P8 billion may not be necessary."

Reynaldo Bantug, president of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations, said they would not be taking against the President the decision of LBP as she had already done a lot in propping the sugar industry.

Army says it exhumed bodies of NPA victims

By Job Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—The military exhumed three bodies buried in a mass grave of suspected New People's Army victims in Barangay Bagatangke, Malinao, Albay Thursday afternoon.

Col. Arsenio Arugay, com-

mander of the 901st Infantry Brigade of the Philippine Army, said they received information that there were 13 graves in the area.

The mass grave is situated in the tri-boundary of Malinao and Polangui towns of Albay and Buhi in Camarines Sur.

Arugay added that his men

had only discovered three remains but they were still conducting search and recovery operations to retrieve the reported total number of the buried bodies.

Arugay identified one of the victims as Ramon Madrideo, a fisherman from Polangui, who went missing since 2002.

He was identified by his relatives, through the pair of pants he was wearing.

Arugay said the military would file multiple murder charges against the rebels operating in the area but did not identify who would be charged.

The information was tipped off to the elements of the Army Engineering Brigade who constructed school buildings in the village.

The surveillance on the possible graveyard yielded positive results during the turnover ceremony of the project.

The school building was turned over by the Army to the Department of Education, represented by Luz Bonaobra, Malinao district supervisor and Mayor Emily Kare.

The graveyard is located near the new school building.

Arugay appealed to the public to report to the military if they have family members or relatives who are missing, or had been abducted, for identification of the remaining unclaimed corpses.



FACES

A woman and her children enjoy one of the activities during the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio City—face painting.

PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Cops link extortion with plan to burn mall

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police said they were studying extortion as the possible motive behind Tuesday's attempt to burn the Koronadal Commercial Center, the biggest shopping mall here.

Police have recovered three modified cellular phones, which were packed with suspected incendiary powder, tucked in some display at KCC's garments section.

A saleslady had alerted authorities about a foul smell in the said

section. Chief Supt. Antonio Billones, Central Mindanao police director, told reporters here that they would talk with Rey Chang, owner of KCC Mall, to find out if he received extortion letters prior to the attempt.

Aside from the extortion angle, the police were also looking into a possible link between the attempt on KCC and the Valentine's Day explosion near the Gaisano Mall here.

Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sulayman said his group was behind the Valentine's Day attack that also hit Davao City and Makati.

Billones said as of yesterday, no suspect has been identified yet.

In March 2002, the KCC Mall was burned after similar incidents destroyed several other malls here.

The Abu Sayyaf later owned up the arson. *Aguiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

tanong Bayan

With a cellcard daily and a cellphone weekly!

I-text ang inyong "fearless view" sa 2910. Pipiliin namin ang pinakamagaling na sagot.

Ang premyo:
Cellcard kada araw!
Cellphone kada linggo!

Cut-off time: WEDNESDAY, 4pm

Dapat bang mag-retiro na ang Santo Papa?
For Sun, Smart and Globe subscribers

Congrats, Jay Avelino ng Bulacan!
Nanalo ka ng bagong Nokia 2600!

"ang vat ay twirang pgna2kaw s smbyanan
2mulad sna ang gobyro kay robin hood,
mgna2kaw mn inilisp p rn ang kpkanan ng byan"

Tumawag lamang sa 8978808 at hanapin si Leslie Perez o si Dennis Leung.

Cellcard kada araw,
cellphone kada linggo!

Text na!

ANATSU AND KANLIN

LEVEL UP! levelupgames.ph

A TALE OF TWO CITIES

GRAND LAUNCH

GRAVITY

Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG

CEBU
AYALA CENTER CEBU
SOUTH SURFACE PARK
4:00 P.M.

DAVAO
MALL TOWN SQUARE
4:00 P.M.

March 12, 2005, 11am @ Market! Market! Special City

- Anatsu and Kanlin Stage Play
- RPC 2005 Regional Qualifiers Lottery
- Performance by Moonstar88
- Ragina Fair
- Free Gaming Area
- Cosplay Competition

Level Up! Inc. Copyright © 2005 Gravity Corp. & Lee Myoungin. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED



Question of the Week

Considering the Pope's ill health, do you think he should resign?

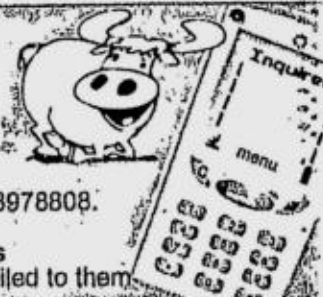
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's InqBox wil each receiv an "Inquirer Mug! U

inquirer box
name/age/city/message.

(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.

Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them.



EZ2 26 2
SUERTRES 1 0 8
FOUR DIGIT 3 2 0 1
 (In exact order)

Text us your feedback:
 Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
METRO
 Editor Ester G. Dipsupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe Jr.

MEGALOTTO 6/45

SWEEPSTAKES

1 9 14 21 32 35 2 0 3 2 1 1 P
 P12,262,643.40 P100,000.00

Mapua may get to keep its name on paper after all

By Alcuin Papa

MAPUA may be able to keep its name after all.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said yesterday the Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT) is keeping its name as school administrators had apparently dropped plans to change it

to Malayan Colleges.

Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, O.P., CHED chair, told the INQUIRER that MIT president Dr. Reynaldo Vea wrote CHED National Capital Region Director Dr. Amelia Biglete that the school would continue to use the name Mapua Institute of Technology in its record with the CHED as well as official docu-

ments and student records.

Dela Rosa said Vea's letter also said the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the change in the corporate name of the school to Malayan Colleges Inc. but with the stipulation that it was "operating under the name Mapua Institute of Technology."

"It is explicitly stated (in Dr.

Vea's letter) that they will continue to use the name Mapua Institute of Technology in all official documents. Records with our office will also be under Mapua Institute of Technology. And they will use Mapua in all their advertisements and announcements to the public," Dela Rosa said.

The 80-year-old school, found-

ed by Don Tomas Mapua, is well-known for its engineering and architecture programs, with many of its graduates topping licensure examinations. The school was purchased by the Yuchengco Group of Companies, which has interests in insurance, banking and real estate. On Feb. 10, it was announced that Mapua's name

would be changed to Malayan University. Vea said this was part of the school's objective to gain university status. The old name would then refer only to the College of Engineering and Architecture. Mapua students had opposed the plan, and held regular protest actions, resulting in the suspension of several students.

Roldan's wife accuses 10 cops of theft

By D.J. Yap

WHEN they came to take him away on charges of kidnapping for ransom, Dennis Roldan's arresting officers also carted away his car, cellular phones and jewelry.

Roldan's wife, Ma. Teresa Gumabao, made these allegations Thursday, in a complaint before the Quezon City prosecutor's office as she accused 10 Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) agents of car theft, robbery, grave threats among other charges.

An actor and a former congressman, Roldan, Mitchell Yap Gumabao in real life, is a suspect in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in Pasig City. The boy was rescued by police later. Two other suspects had linked him to the crime.

Ma. Teresa identified the Pacer agents as Police Supt. Antonio Bartolome; Police Senior Inspectors Aldrin Juaneza, Ali Jose Duterte, Joseph Elmer Bullong, Santos Sumingwa and Jonel Guadalupe; PO3 Norman Corpuz; PO2 Moises Abasilla, PO2 Zaldy Montero, and PO2 Christine Prado.

On the morning of Roldan's arrest on Feb. 20, Ma. Teresa said she woke up to a loud noise as heavily armed men barged into their home in Filinvest II, Quezon City. She then focused Roldan, and then hid from the men with son Marco in the bathroom out of fear.

A man was already in the bedroom before she was able to shout to the others outside that the door was open. The man in dark fatigues, a black vest, and a helmet pointed a high-powered gun at them and told them to leave the bathroom, she said.

The armed men, pointing to Roldan, asked her if he was her husband. When she answered yes, the men asked what was his name. Ma. Teresa shouted: "Hindi n'yo siya kilala? Ano ba 'yan? (You don't even know him? What's this?)"

During this time, Roldan had his hands cuffed behind his back with his head bowed, and was blindfolded with packing tape, said Ma. Teresa. Roldan's mouth was also plastered with packing tape, she added.

During the commotion, Roldan's wife said she noticed that their bracelets, watches, diamond earrings and cellular phones worth more than P610,000, and one Rolex watch worth half a million pesos were gone. As the men dragged Roldan out of the house, Ma. Teresa said she kept asking who the men were, who was their leader, and where they were bringing him.

But no one answered, she said. Later, they asked for her husband's slippers, and when she handed it to them, she noticed that her husband was gone. Their car, a light blue Toyota Corolla with plate number WKE 486, Ma. Teresa said, was also gone. Roldan's wife said she did not know that the men were police officers, and had reported the incident to the Batasan Hills Police as an abduction case. The agents were also charged with violation of domicile, grave coercion, slight physical injuries, malicious mischief and violations of arrested persons' rights.

Repeated calls to Bartolome and the Pacer group for comment were not immediately returned.



SUZETTE Wang (center) answers questions from reporters: In the eye of a storm.

ERIK ARAZAS

A day of blunders and drama at Roldan preliminary probe

By Armand N. Nocum

IT WAS a much-hyped-up hearing that involved Dennis Roldan, a popular actor and former congressman, but Department of Justice (DOJ) lawyers appeared to have been caught flat-footed while preparing for the case.

Yesterday, a lawyer of one of the alleged henchmen of Roldan, a suspect in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy, with seven others, asked the DOJ to inhibit itself from proceeding with the preliminary hearing on the case.

"You all saw Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on television saying that all the accused are guilty. As the highest official of the DOJ, he should refrain from talking or issuing statements prejudicial to the accused," said Alvin Valenciano, lawyer of accused Romeo Orcajada.

Orcajada, along with other kidnapping suspects Alberto Pagdanganan, Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Octavio Garces, Adrian Domingo and Suzette Wang, Roldan's alleged girlfriend, appeared at the DOJ for a preliminary investigation yesterday, a procedure that would enable prosecution lawyers to find out if evidence would warrant the filing of a case in court.

Roldan, Mitchell Yap Gumabao in real life, did not appear yesterday be-

cause he had already been charged with the offense before the Pasig Regional Trial Court last Thursday.

Valenciano said that as head of an investigating body, Gonzales should be "impartial."

Earlier, Gonzales said there was strong evidence to pin down Roldan and the seven other suspects in the kidnapping of the boy on Feb. 9. He also said Roldan was known to have lived beyond his means, and had lost heavily in a Las Vegas casino, according to an informant.

State Prosecutor II Pablo C. Formaran III and Prosecution Attorney Irwin Maraya were also faulted for not being careful in the handling of important documents pertinent to the case. For one, copies of the complaint and affidavits of witnesses and other documents were not sent to Wang, who was also named as "Huang" in the kidnapping charges they filed against Roldan. Wang's lawyer, Wilfredo de Ungria, had used this omission as a chance to submit his client's counter-affidavit at a later date.

Omissions

Formaran admitted that DOJ personnel "inadvertently" failed to attach the documents to the subpoena

sent to Wang, but added that such mistakes were "part of the process... (that) usually happens during the preliminary investigation."

Wang showed up yesterday to deny accusations that she had ordered the kidnapping. Also present at the investigation was Jennie Yu, the mother of the kidnap victim, and reportedly a good friend of Suzette.

"I was looking at Jennie. I don't think we should hate each other because nothing like that happened," she told reporters.

Yu submitted a supplemental affidavit stating that she met Wang, with her two kids, on Dec. 15 in Libis, Quezon City.

"She was on board a white (Honda) CRV, the plate number of which I could not recall. My son's nanny, Sherlita Gontinas, who was with him on the day of the abduction, said that was the same kind of car used by the kidnappers when they kidnapped my child," she said in her affidavit.

Yu recalled that Wang had told her that her new car was given to her by Roldan.

All of the accused, except for Roldan, have yet to be formally charged in court for the offense.

Fake bills gang suspects nabbed

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested two suspects who were caught with computer and printing equipment, and fake peso bills in Valenzuela City last year.

Rodolfo Jabiguero, of No. 1206 Barrio Bitik, General T. De Leon, Valenzuela City, and Arlene Pedrajas, of No. 1811 Int. 90, Barrio Sta. Maria, Paco, Manila, were arrested last Sunday in their homes.

Arlene's husband Eduardo Pedrajas, the alleged leader of the syndicate involved in the manufacture of bogus peso bills, is believed to be hiding somewhere in Quezon City or Cavite, according to bureau officials.

The suspects, nabbed in May 2004 during a raid at their rented house on Gen. T de Leon Street in Valenzuela, were previously released for lack of an arrest warrant.

Seized in the raid were fake bills in P100, P200 and P500 denominations, two sets of Pentium 4 computers, HP 3550 printers and Canon color scanners, stamps bearing the faces of people in Philippine currency, bottles of ink, paint, a special violet paper imported from Australia, and an ultraviolet light machine.

The equipment was worth around P100,000.

Investigators also recovered a pen used to make fluorescent markers in the currency that show up under ultraviolet light.

METROBRIEFS

War vs drugs on

THE FIGHT is still on. So said Las Piñas City police chief Perpetuo Sanso, referring to the city's war against video *karera* machines and illegal drugs. For the past two months, the police conducted 20 operations and seized 14 video *karera* machines, according to an accomplishment report submitted to Mayor Imelda Aguilar. The ma-

chines are usually found in the city's squatters' areas, Sanso said, adding that the large population in those areas contributes to the proliferation of the video *karera* business. Children are usually the regular customers of the trade, he added. On the other hand, 14 persons were arrested from Jan. 1 to Feb. 28 for drug use, while seven drug cases had been filed in court.

Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WORD war between the House of Representatives and the Senate is welcomed by advocates of the unicameral system of government.

They want the quarrel to get worse and lead to a showdown, so that the two bodies will cancel each other out.

Under the unicameral system, there will only be one legislative body. And in countries where there is unicameral system, the chief executive or prime minister is elected by his peers in the parliament.

What caused the quarrel between the Senate and the Lower House?

The Senate passed the House-approved P907.56-billion national budget. But the Senate did the unthinkable, in the eyes of the House: it sent the proposed national budget directly to Malacañang without having it pass through the bicameral conference.

The bicameral conference or "bicam," composed of selected

Senate 'betrays' House

ON
TARGET

Ramon
Tulfo



at the bicam.

In other words, what the Senate did was a betrayal—in the eyes of the House.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has called on her fellow legislators in the Senate and the House of Representatives to "commit mass suicide."

All her colleagues agree to her call for a *hara-kiri*, on one condition: she should do it first.

In short, this is the kind of legislators that we have: flip-flop and playful like little children.

Little by little, Davao Oriental Gov. Ma. Elena Palma Gil's involvement in illegal logging in the province is surfacing. The latest report on illegal logging activities in the mountains of Baganga and Cateel towns comes in the form of a sworn affidavit from tribal chieftain Ermelita M. Latiban.

Latiban, vice chair of the Council of Elder Leaders of Cateel, Davao Oriental, and chair of the Cateel Mandaya Tribe Inc. and Barangay Tribal Chieftain of Abejod, Cateel, said there was massive cutting down of trees in the mountains of Cateel.

She said she learned about it when she came across logs of a banned tree species in commercial quantities which were felled in Pangihulid Creek in her upland barangay.

When she complained, she was told that the cutting down of trees was ordered by Vice Mayor Aristotle Abella.

And who is Abella? He is a protégé of Palma Gil's.

Abella, according to my sources in the province, dummies for the Palma Gils in the illegal logging activities in Cateel and Baganga.

Will the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) please investigate Latiban's allegations?



SEN. ALFREDO Lim cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the launching of a photo exhibit highlighting the Filipino-Chinese studies program at La Salle Greenhills. With Senator Lim are Tan Tiang Siong, vice president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industries Inc. (left) and Brother Bernie Oca, La Salle Greenhills president.

EZ2 26 2
SUERTRES 1 0 8
FOUR DIGIT 3 2 0 1
 (In exact order)

Text us your feedback:
 Inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph
METRO
 Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ Assistant Editor Cenon B. Bibe Jr.

MEGALOTTO 6/45

SWEEPSTAKES

1 9 14 21 32 35 2 0 3 2 1 1 P
 P12,262,643.40 P100,000.00

Mapua may get to keep its name on paper after all

By Alcuin Papa

MAPUA may be able to keep its name after all.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) said yesterday the Mapua Institute of Technology (MIT) is keeping its name as school administrators had apparently dropped plans to change it

to Malayan Colleges.

Fr. Rolando dela Rosa, O.P., CHED chair, told the INQUIRER that MIT president Dr. Reynaldo Vea wrote CHED National Capital Region Director Dr. Amelia Biglete that the school would continue to use the name Mapua Institute of Technology in its record with the CHED as well as official docu-

ments and student records.

Dela Rosa said Vea's letter also said the Securities and Exchange Commission approved the change in the corporate name of the school to Malayan Colleges Inc. but with the stipulation that it was "operating under the name Mapua Institute of Technology."

"It is explicitly stated (in Dr.

Vea's letter) that they will continue to use the name Mapua Institute of Technology in all official documents. Records with our office will also be under Mapua Institute of Technology. And they will use Mapua in all their advertisements and announcements to the public," Dela Rosa said.

The 80-year-old school, found-

ed by Don Tomas Mapua, is well-known for its engineering and architecture programs, with many of its graduates topping licensure examinations. The school was purchased by the Yuchengco Group of Companies, which has interests in insurance, banking and real estate. On Feb. 10, it was announced that Mapua's name

would be changed to Malayan University. Vea said this was part of the school's objective to gain university status. The old name would then refer only to the College of Engineering and Architecture. Mapua students had opposed the plan, and held regular protest actions, resulting in the suspension of several students.

Roldan's wife accuses 10 cops of theft

By D.J. Yap

WHEN they came to take him away on charges of kidnapping for ransom, Dennis Roldan's arresting officers also carted away his car, cellular phones and jewelry.

Roldan's wife, Ma. Teresa Gumabao, made these allegations Thursday, in a complaint before the Quezon City prosecutor's office as she accused 10 Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) agents of car theft, robbery, grave threats among other charges.

An actor and a former congressman, Roldan, Mitchell Yap Gumabao in real life, is a suspect in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy in Pasig City. The boy was rescued by police later. Two other suspects had linked him to the crime.

Ma. Teresa identified the Pacer agents as Police Supt. Antonio Bartolome; Police Senior Inspectors Aldrin Juaneza, Ali Jose Duterte, Joseph Elmer Bullong, Santos Sumingwa and Jonel Guadalupe; PO3 Norman Corpuz; PO2 Moises Abasilla, PO2 Zaldy Montero, and PO2 Christine Prado.

On the morning of Roldan's arrest on Feb. 20, Ma. Teresa said she woke up to a loud noise as heavily armed men barged into their home in Filinvest II, Quezon City. She then focused Roldan, and then hid from the men with son Marco in the bathroom out of fear.

A man was already in the bedroom before she was able to shout to the others outside that the door was open. The man in dark fatigues, a black vest, and a helmet pointed a high-powered gun at them and told them to leave the bathroom, she said.

The armed men, pointing to Roldan, asked her if he was her husband. When she answered yes, the men asked what was his name. Ma. Teresa shouted: "Hindi n'yo siya kilala? Ano ba 'yan? (You don't even know him? What's this?)"

During this time, Roldan had his hands cuffed behind his back with his head bowed, and was blindfolded with packing tape, said Ma. Teresa. Roldan's mouth was also plastered with packing tape, she added.

During the commotion, Roldan's wife said she noticed that their bracelets, watches, diamond earrings and cellular phones worth more than P610,000, and one Rolex watch worth half a million pesos were gone. As the men dragged Roldan out of the house, Ma. Teresa said she kept asking who the men were, who was their leader, and where they were bringing him.

But no one answered, she said. Later, they asked for her husband's slippers, and when she handed it to them, she noticed that her husband was gone. Their car, a light blue Toyota Corolla with plate number WKE 486, Ma. Teresa said, was also gone. Roldan's wife said she did not know that the men were police officers, and had reported the incident to the Batasan Hills Police as an abduction case. The agents were also charged with violation of domicile, grave coercion, slight physical injuries, malicious mischief and violations of arrested persons' rights.

Repeated calls to Bartolome and the Pacer group for comment were not immediately returned.



SUZETTE Wang (center) answers questions from reporters: In the eye of a storm.

ERIK ARAZAS

A day of blunders and drama at Roldan preliminary probe

By Armand N. Nocum

IT WAS a much-hyped-up hearing that involved Dennis Roldan, a popular actor and former congressman, but Department of Justice (DOJ) lawyers appeared to have been caught flat-footed while preparing for the case.

Yesterday, a lawyer of one of the alleged henchmen of Roldan, a suspect in the kidnapping of a 3-year-old boy, with seven others, asked the DOJ to inhibit itself from proceeding with the preliminary hearing on the case.

"You all saw Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on television saying that all the accused are guilty. As the highest official of the DOJ, he should refrain from talking or issuing statements prejudicial to the accused," said Alvino Valenciano, lawyer of accused Romeo Orcajada.

Orcajada, along with other kidnapping suspects Alberto Pagdanganan, Noel San Andres, Rowena San Andres, Octavio Garces, Adrian Domingo and Suzette Wang, Roldan's alleged girlfriend, appeared at the DOJ for a preliminary investigation yesterday, a procedure that would enable prosecution lawyers to find out if evidence would warrant the filing of a case in court.

Roldan, Mitchell Yap Gumabao in real life, did not appear yesterday be-

cause he had already been charged with the offense before the Pasig Regional Trial Court last Thursday.

Valenciano said that as head of an investigating body, Gonzales should be "impartial."

Earlier, Gonzales said there was strong evidence to pin down Roldan and the seven other suspects in the kidnapping of the boy on Feb. 9. He also said Roldan was known to have lived beyond his means, and had lost heavily in a Las Vegas casino, according to an informant.

State Prosecutor II Pablo C. Formaran III and Prosecution Attorney Irwin Maraya were also faulted for not being careful in the handling of important documents pertinent to the case. For one, copies of the complaint and affidavits of witnesses and other documents were not sent to Wang, who was also named as "Huang" in the kidnapping charges they filed against Roldan. Wang's lawyer, Wilfredo de Ungria, had used this omission as a chance to submit his client's counter-affidavit at a later date.

Omissions

Formaran admitted that DOJ personnel "inadvertently" failed to attach the documents to the subpoena

sent to Wang, but added that such mistakes were "part of the process... (that) usually happens during the preliminary investigation."

Wang showed up yesterday to deny accusations that she had ordered the kidnapping. Also present at the investigation was Jennie Yu, the mother of the kidnap victim, and reportedly a good friend of Suzette.

"I was looking at Jennie. I don't think we should hate each other because nothing like that happened," she told reporters.

Yu submitted a supplemental affidavit stating that she met Wang, with her two kids, on Dec. 15 in Libis, Quezon City.

"She was on board a white (Honda) CRV, the plate number of which I could not recall. My son's nanny, Sherlita Gontinas, who was with him on the day of the abduction, said that was the same kind of car used by the kidnappers when they kidnapped my child," she said in her affidavit.

Yu recalled that Wang had told her that her new car was given to her by Roldan.

All of the accused, except for Roldan, have yet to be formally charged in court for the offense.

Fake bills gang suspects nabbed

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested two suspects who were caught with computer and printing equipment, and fake peso bills in Valenzuela City last year.

Rodolfo Jabiguero, of No. 1206 Barrio Bitik, General T. De Leon, Valenzuela City, and Arlene Pedrajas, of No. 1811 Int. 90, Barrio Sta. Maria, Paco, Manila, were arrested last Sunday in their homes.

Arlene's husband Eduardo Pedrajas, the alleged leader of the syndicate involved in the manufacture of bogus peso bills, is believed to be hiding somewhere in Quezon City or Cavite, according to bureau officials.

The suspects, nabbed in May 2004 during a raid at their rented house on Gen. T de Leon Street in Valenzuela, were previously released for lack of an arrest warrant.

Seized in the raid were fake bills in P100, P200 and P500 denominations, two sets of Pentium 4 computers, HP 3550 printers and Canon color scanners, stamps bearing the faces of people in Philippine currency, bottles of ink, paint, a special violet paper imported from Australia, and an ultraviolet light machine.

The equipment was worth around P100,000.

Investigators also recovered a pen used to make fluorescent markers in the currency that show up under ultraviolet light.

METROBRIEFS

War vs drugs on

THE FIGHT is still on. So said Las Piñas City police chief Perpetuo Sanso, referring to the city's war against video *karera* machines and illegal drugs. For the past two months, the police conducted 20 operations and seized 14 video *karera* machines, according to an accomplishment report submitted to Mayor Imelda Aguilar. The ma-

chines are usually found in the city's squatters' areas, Sanso said, adding that the large population in those areas contributes to the proliferation of the video *karera* business. Children are usually the regular customers of the trade, he added. On the other hand, 14 persons were arrested from Jan. 1 to Feb. 28 for drug use, while seven drug cases had been filed in court.

Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WORD war between the House of Representatives and the Senate is welcomed by advocates of the unicameral system of government.

They want the quarrel to get worse and lead to a showdown, so that the two bodies will cancel each other out.

Under the unicameral system, there will only be one legislative body. And in countries where there is unicameral system, the chief executive or prime minister is elected by his peers in the parliament.

What caused the quarrel between the Senate and the Lower House?

The Senate passed the House-approved P907.56-billion national budget. But the Senate did the unthinkable, in the eyes of the House: it sent the proposed national budget directly to Malacañang without having it pass through the bicameral conference.

The bicameral conference or "bicam," composed of selected

Senate 'betrays' House

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



members of the House and the Senate, reconciles conflicting provisions of bills approved by both houses of Congress. It is considered the "third and most powerful" legislative body.

Horse-trading between senators and congressmen in the approval of bills of national import take place in the bicam.

The House, apparently in response to popular clamor, cut the pork barrel allocation of every member from P70 million to P40 million. The Senate did the same thing, cut the pork barrel allocation from P200 million to P120 million.

But most congressmen expected that the P70 million pork barrel allocation would be restored

at the bicam.

In other words, what the Senate did was a betrayal—in the eyes of the House.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago has called on her fellow legislators in the Senate and the House of Representatives to "commit mass suicide."

All her colleagues agree to her call for a *hara-kiri*, on one condition: she should do it first.

In short, this is the kind of legislators that we have: flip-flop and playful like little children.

Little by little, Davao Oriental Gov. Ma. Elena Pardo Gil's involvement in illegal logging in the province is surfacing.

The latest report on illegal logging activities in the mountains of Baganga and Cateel towns comes in the form of a sworn affidavit from tribal chieftain Ermelita M. Latiban.

Latiban, vice chair of the Council of Elder Leaders of Cateel, Davao Oriental, and chair of the Cateel Mandaya Tribe Inc. and Barangay Tribal Chieftain of Abejod, Cateel, said there was massive cutting down of trees in the mountains of Cateel.

She said she learned about it when she came across logs of a banned tree species in commercial quantities which were felled in Pangihulid Creek in her upland barangay.

When she complained, she was told that the cutting down of trees was ordered by Vice Mayor Aristotele Abella.

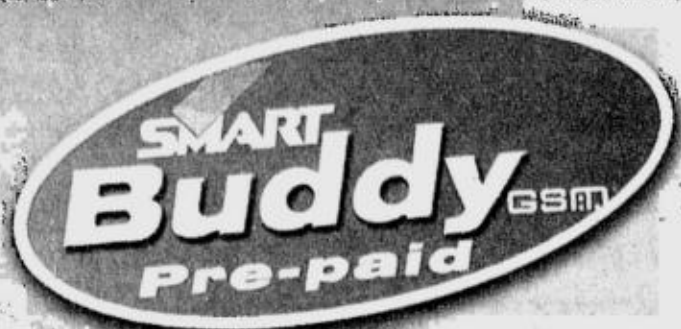
And who is Abella? He is a protégé of Palma Gil's.

Abella, according to my sources in the province, dummies for the Palma Gils in the illegal logging activities in Cateel and Baganga.

Will the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) please investigate Latiban's allegations?



SEN. ALFREDO Lim cuts the ceremonial ribbon at the launching of a photo exhibit highlighting the Filipino-Chinese studies program at La Salle Greenhills. With Senator Lim are Tan Tiang Siong, vice president of the Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industries Inc. (left) and Brother Bernie Oca, La Salle Greenhills president.



Another First from SMART Buddy and Nokia

SMART Buddy-NOKIA

JAZZ
Got
LUCKY!



The Most Affordable
Nokia 1100 in the Country!

P 3,589 only

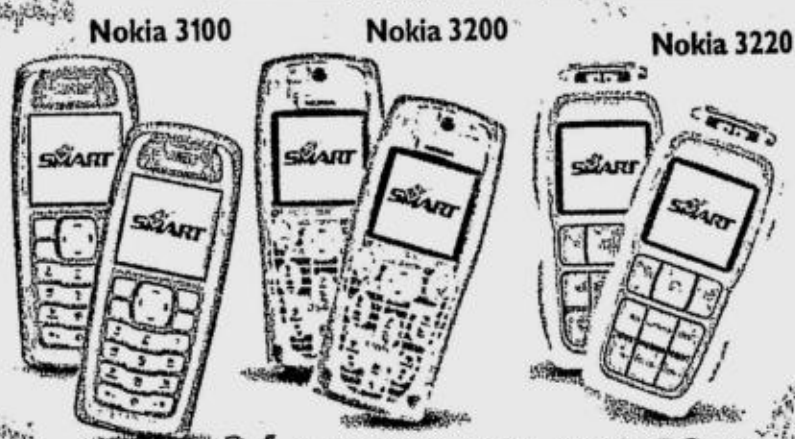
Built-in flashlight • Sleek silicone keymat with large keys
Durable cover with anti-slip sides • Longer-lasting battery
Changeable Xpress-on™ covers • Taglish Predictive Text



2 HONDA JAZZ
in the Grand Draws



24 HONDA SCOOTERS
in the Weekly Draws



36 NOKIA CELFONES
in the Weekly Draws

Just buy a SMART Buddy NOKIA 1100 phonekit for only P3,589 from any SMART Wireless Center or phone dealer to get a raffle entry* for a chance to be one of the lucky winners of three (3) Nokia celfones and two (2) Honda scooters weekly. Or win 1 of 2 Honda JAZZ in the Grand Draws!

So, grab a SMART Buddy Nokia 1100 phonekit now and you might jazz get lucky and win!

*To join the raffle promo, simply register by texting N1100 <name><address><age><Serial No. of Nokia 1100><Celfone No.> and send to 386.

†To get the N1100 unit Serial No., key-in the following: *#06#.

NOKIA
CONNECTING PEOPLE

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation); e-mail us at customer@smart.com.ph or visit our website at www.smart.com.ph.

DRAW	PRIZES PER DRAW
12 Weekly Draws (5 Winners Weekly)	- One (1) SMART Buddy- Nokia 3100 - One (1) SMART Buddy- Nokia 3200 - One (1) SMART Buddy- Nokia 3220 - One (1) Honda Wave Alpha Scooter - One (1) Honda Wave 125 Scooter
2 Grand Draws	One (1) of Two (2) Honda Jazz

Text N1100 to 386 for more details.



See flyers for details.
Promo is from January 15 to April 8, 2005
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0177, Series of 2005.

SPORTS

Text us your feedback: Inquirer sport name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres



DEL MONTE'S Ondoy Mondilla lines up his putt with his caddy on No. 11 at Binitin. Mondilla signed for 37 points. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Del Monte catches Southwoods; CSE now within four

By Musong R. Castillo

MURCIA, Negros Occidental—Ironic as it may seem, the 58th edition of the Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championship got ugly on a day when play was pretty.

Tempers flared and accusations flew after defending champion Del Monte caught Southwoods at the top and Canlubang made a game out of it going into the final 18 holes of the Championship division.

Ondoy Mondilla shot a one-under-par 69 worth 37 points at the Binitin layout here for Del Monte, even as the Sugar Barons returned the day's best round to creep to within four.

Del Monte, which teed off four down behind Southwoods, also drew 34 points from Lino Retuerto, 31 from Boboy Jaraula and 30 from Jett Plete to amass 132 for the day and tie Southwoods with a three-day 385. Joel Opaco's 29 failed to count.

"I think we have a very good chance," said Del Monte skipper

Yoyong Velez. "Last year, we were also in the lead after the third round and we pulled it off. I like our chances coming into the final round."

"I think, comparing the lineups of the three teams, we are the most experienced."

Jun Bernis atoned for a lackluster debut by matching Mondilla's total, and Juvic Pagunsan chipped in with 34 points despite being penalized as Canlubang assembled 134 for the day and a 381 total.

The Sugar Barons, who will send Jay Bayron, Ronnie Torrecampo, Abe Rosal, Dave Hernandez and JR Tanpinco at the Marapara in Bacolod for the final round today, drew 32 points from Boyet Saragoza and 31 from Matthew Manotoc.

Jose Mari Hechanova's 29 did not count.

Southwoods slowed down somewhat, with the 35 points of Hanson So Jr. and Gene Bondoc's 33 making up the bulk of its 128.

Jun Jun Plana contributed 32 and Miko Alejandro's 28 counted over Bong Brobio's 25.

Wack Wack stayed in fourth with a 327 after pooling 109 behind the DEL MONTE/ A26

*Leonard:
Pacquiao
should use
his head*

By Recah Trinidad

A DAY after trainer Freddie Roach bragged about a secret weapon that will be the key to Manny Pacquiao's victory, the legendary Sugar Ray Leonard paid the Filipino boxing idol a visit and advised him he



LEONARD

LEONARD/ A26

GREAT DEALS OF QUALITY

AUTOWIDE

TRUCKS, PASSENGER VANS & SUV'S



ISUZU 10T CARGO

ISUZU ELF ALUM VAN

ISUZU ELF CARGO (GIGA)

LOT 63B INNOVATIVE ST., SUBIC BAY INDUSTRIAL PARK, PHASE I, SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES 2222
TEL. NO.: (047) 252-1221 FAX NO.: (047) 252-1223

MANILA OFFICE: 51 Amang Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Santolan, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No.: (02) 646-7739 Fax No.: (02) 668-1378

www.myautowide.com
info@myautowide.com

More thrust for your
trust.



BMW Motorrad

www.bmw.com.ph



Sheer Riding Pleasure

BMW Motorrad expands its dealer network. Complete sales of motorcycles, parts, accessories and BMW Rider Gear supported by FULL-aftersales service is now in two convenient locations - Libis and Alabang. Put your trust in us. **BMW Motorrad.**

Autozentrum BMW Madrigal Business Park, Commerce Avenue, Alabang, Muntinlupa • Tel. (02) 772 6021 to 24 • Fax (02) 772 6025
Autohaus BMW. The BMW Experience. 184 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Libis, Quezon City • Tel. Nos. (02) 638 0734 to 43 • Fax (02) 438 0419

ISM still part of SEA Games' marketing drive

By Jasmine W. Payo

INTER SPORTS Marketing, the Malaysian-based fund-raiser of the last four Southeast Asian Games, has not withdrawn from its commitment to anchor the country's marketing drive for the SEA Games this year.

"ISM is still part of our efforts to raise funds," said Philippine SEA Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) chair Roberto "Obet" Pagdanganan last night.

"Right now, we're just opening ourselves to other options."

The comment came on the heels of re-

ports emanating from the Philsoc that ISM had backed out of its commitment to serve as the exclusive marketing arm of the SEA Games, a move the firm's officials denied.

"We're continuing what we started last year," said ISM Philippine agent Ningning Sering, who added that the firm is currently finalizing negotiations with several multinational companies regarding the sponsorship of the Games.

Sering said ISM's Malaysian-based director, Richard Velu, made it clear yesterday that the firm, which handled marketing efforts of four previous SEAG hostings, is not

withdrawing from this year's staging.

Pagdanganan clarified, however, that the Philsoc will strip ISM of its exclusivity and allow Corplan Inc., a marketing group organic to the Philsoc, to explore other sponsorship options with a more widened reach after ISM failed to meet its Feb. 28 deadline to submit finalized deals.

"We gave them a deadline to finalize transactions and they asked for an extension," Pagdanganan explained. "Right now, we have to consider other options."

"If [ISM] signs up sponsors, we will now have to study them on a case-to-case

basis," he added.

Pagdanganan also denied a possible rift between the two marketing groups in the wake of reports that ISM had backed out of the SEAG-funding efforts.

"If at all, it allows us to cover more ground because now, there are two groups looking for sponsors for the Games," said the Philsoc chair.

Corplan's widened reach, however, presents a tricky commission problem for the Philsoc. Initially created to tap into the local market, Corplan now has the go-signal to test the multinational waters.

Corplan chief executive officer Jose Cura yesterday said his group is now talking to several multinational brands, including Samsung and Nestlé, two companies that ISM is also finalizing deals with.

Sering said their firm is currently working out deals with LG Electronics, Konika and Panasonic.

To date, the Philsoc has only sealed one sponsorship deal, Globe Telecom's P100-million commitment to the Games linked through Pagdanganan's efforts.

Imports fail to shine in PBA opening

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)

4:10 p.m.—FedEx vs Purefoods

6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Red Bull

(Britania Arena Sports Mall, Jakarta, Indonesia)

7:45 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Shell

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT WAS no tall story how local cagers totally outshone foreign reinforcements in the PBA Fiesta Conference yesterday.

John Arigo shot 13 of his 19 points in the final six minutes to lead the Coca-Cola Tigers past the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 76-65, in the conference's opening game yesterday at the PhilSports Arena.

"Both teams struggled because we got imports that didn't do too well," said Tigers coach Eric Altamirano, who's back after a two-year absence. "I think it was also a blessing in disguise that our import fouled out because we were able to get a streak in the fourth quarter."

"I give credit to the locals for stepping up in the fourth quarter," added Altamirano, who took over the coaching job after

Chot Reyes was named Philippine national team coach.

Coca-Cola import Ja Ja Richards, a 6-foot-10 center from the Virgin Islands, grabbed 16 rebounds but could score only 8 points in 39 minutes of play.

After Richards fouled out at the 6:23 mark in the fourth quarter, Arigo took charge to spark Coca-Cola's 13-1 run.

Sta. Lucia temporarily fielded American forward Richard Jeter, while waiting for 6-10 Raheid Brown who's set to arrive Monday. Jeter scored only six points in 36 minutes of action.

In the second game, the San Miguel Beermen seemed to be the only team last night that got an impressive performance from its foreign recruit. Chris Burgess finished with 22 points and 22 rebounds in an 82-73 win over the Alaska Aces.

Danny Seigle shot a game-high 23 points, including 15 in the first period.

It was a double whammy for the Aces, whose locker room was raided by thieves, who stole cellular phones and wallets of players and team personnel.

San Miguel led by as many as 14 points, 60-46, but Alaska trimmed the margin at 66-58 by the end of the third

quarter.

The Aces then opened the final period with a 6-0 charge that cut the Beermen's advantage by two, 66-64. But the Beermen responded with eight straight points capped by a three-pointer and a jumper from Dondon Hontiveros for a 74-64 cushion.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 76—Arigo 19, Peek 16, Reavis 10, Richards 8, Abarrientos 8, Antonio 6, Bacani 4, Avenida 3, Julino 2.

STA. LUCIA 65—Aquino 20, Espino 13, Duremdes 8, Omolon 7, Mendoza 7, Jeter 6, Calimang 4, Agapito 0, Tolomia 0, Demape 0.

Quarters: 12-17, 30-32, 47-52, 76-65

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 82—Seigle 23, Burgess 22, Belasco 12, Hontiveros 11, Racela 9, Villoria 3, Peña 2, Lopez 0, Monte 0.

ALASKA 73—Carlos 16, Allado 14, Cablay 13, Huganatan 9, Derricks 8, Wilson 7, Thoss 2, Hawkins 2, Feil 2, Johnson 0, Tejada 0.

Quarters: 23-28, 49-41, 66-58, 82-73



STA. LUCIA'S Marlou Aquino deflects a pass to Coca-Cola import Ja Ja Richards.

Leonard: Pacquiao should use his head Del Monte ties Southwoods

From page A25

may have to use his head in order to beat Mexican Erik Morales.

Pacquiao agreed, but this ploy could prove complicated to the younger, stronger Filipino knockout artist, who's expected to use a tested buzz-saw attack against Morales in their showdown in Las Vegas.

In fact, the consensus among respected fight experts in the United States, like the famous Al Bernstein, is that Morales would enjoy a ready edge if the March 19 clash develops into a tactical war.

But Filipino journalist Winchell Campos reported from the Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, where the RP ring celebrity has been training, that Pacquiao meekly



IDOL'S TIPS: Pacquiao in training.

nodded when told by Leonard about the vitality of wisdom.

"You should also possess this," said Leonard who, Campos said, "pointed to his head to indicate that

half of the battles on top of the ring are won because of mental preparation and toughness, something that Pacquiao completely concurred with."

The report said Leonard and Pacquiao expressed mutual respect Thursday (Friday in Manila) at the chance meeting at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

Leonard was at Freddie Roach's gym to film a music video.

"He told me that I am fast," said Pacquiao.

Then Pacquiao also got several tips from Leonard on how to get past Morales.

The report noted that Morales will come in as the bigger and taller fighter and Pacquiao will step up in

weight to issue a challenge.

Leonard, also a former Golden Gloves champion and Olympic gold medalist, knocked out a much bigger Donnie Lalonde for the WBC light heavyweight title in 1988.

"Good luck to your fight,"

Leonard told Pacquiao. "He is my idol. I tried to copy some of his footwork and I developed speed because he was a great fighter," said Pacquiao.

Leonard even bared his skinny legs "which deceptively carried him to the top of the welterweight division as well as four other different weight classes."

He and Pacquiao agreed that leg power is one of the keys to becoming a great fighter, the report added.

The lion in Leonardia

BACOLOD CITY—The mayor of this city is busy as a bee these days in helping ensure the success of the SEA Games that the country will host beginning in November.

"A major concern is peace and order," said Mayor Evelio R. Leonardia. "The people of Bacolod are aware that many athletes and officials from 11 countries will converge here for almost two weeks during the SEA Games. Our police force will be augmented by military personnel to make our city free from trouble."

The mayor, a lawyer, looks extremely amiable but, seemingly, beneath that façade is a lion's heart unafraid to face the tallest of odds, the harshest of storms.

I immediately noticed that the minute he started baring his plans for the SEA Games during a dinner he hosted here Thursday for about 40 journalists and photographers from all over the country covering the 58th PAL Interclub Golf championships at the NOGCC and Bacolod Golf & Country Club in nearby Murcia.

"It is a monumental job, but we will have to do it for the sake of national interest," Leonardia said, speaking softly but every word oozing with conviction. "This is a national undertaking that we must support and its success is also the success of the Filipino people. We wish to be part of that success."

The hugeness of the SEA Games is such that cities other than Manila have been tapped to host events. Of course, it is befitting for cities to host disciplines close to the heart of their folk.

That is why football is to be played in Bacolod because this seaside city of smiles is basically football country, what with neighbors Iloilo and Barotac Nuevo (producers of national caliber shin busters) lying nearby.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



"We understand that football is the SEA Games centerpiece event," said Leonardia. "We expect to see a big throng of foreign journalists covering football here. We are ready. Our media center will be fully equipped to meet the challenge."

The good mayor also acknowledges the fact that boxing, one of five events to be hosted by Bacolod, will also be closely monitored as it is a major sport in this country. To begin with, the nation will be glued to the sport as we expect Pinoy boxers to score a bonanza of gold against the opposition.

Not the least interesting would be the other three events scheduled here—indoor volleyball, weightlifting and beach volleyball.

"As I said, the entire city of Bacolod is all set for the SEA Games," said Leonardia. "Your support will also be our passport to success."

While media always play a key role in helping ensure the success of any event, whether it is of national significance or not, journalists can only perform their duties well if their hosts will cooperate to the fullest.

"We are always aware of that, that's why we want to listen to your opinion at all times," said Leonardia.

Hosting the biennial Games is no laughing matter as the event has grown by leaps and

bounds in that every member-country in the SEA family needs to involve the entire government machinery to decentralize operations.

Vietnam alone, in hosting the last SEA Games in 2003, had used Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi as the main hubs of events but in addition to them, other Vietnamese cities were also harnessed for the two-week competition.

Bacolod has a big task at hand but Leonardia is unfazed. His main partner, Eric T. Loreto (sports editor of The Visayan Daily Star), is likewise bubbling with confidence that this city will finish the job unscathed, with flying colors.

"Already, we have talked to the squatters at Paglaum (the venue for football) and they have agreed to be relocated," said Leonardia.

Known as the city of smiles, Bacolod's resiliency is legend. It has this phoenix-like trait of rising from the ruins of any disaster that visits the city.

And to the mayor and his constituents, Bacolod hosting five SEA Games events does not even come close to being considered a tropical depression.

JUST as I was about to wrap up this column, Butch Marco of NBN 4 handed me the results of yesterday's third round of the PAL Interclub. And what did I see?

Southwoods, the two-day leader, lost its 4-point lead and is suddenly tied with Del Monte going to today's fourth and final round. Canlubang, down by 8 at the start of the day, is just 4 points behind.

This could only mean one thing: We could be seeing the closest battle yet in 58 years of PAL Interclub existence.

Abangan!

30 points of Mike Ozaeta and Kit Lopez.

Tommy Manotoc and rules official Jake Ayson got into a heated altercation in the clubhouse, with the former Canlubang mainstay accusing the rulesman of bias towards Southwoods in implementing the rules.

Manotoc lost his cool and confronted Ayson, saying Canlubang wound up on the shorter end of two rules decisions that resulted in a four-point swing for Southwoods.

Together with non-playing captain Luigi Yulo, Manotoc claimed that So's ball should have been declared lost off the 15th tee because it was found after the expiration of the five-minute search period as defined by the rules.

However, Ayson declared that the ball was found in the parallel 14th rough in four minutes and 50 seconds, and this drew the ire of the Canlubang officials, particularly Manotoc, who had a brush with Ayson in the Fil-Am several years ago.

"I'm sorry, but I'm just fed up," said Manotoc after questioning the application of the rules on players from both Southwoods and Canlubang. "We timed the search, and it was clearly way over five minutes."

"He was 30 yards away (from the search)," added Manotoc, referring to where Ayson was standing. "He should have approached the spot and timed it in front of everyone. There was no way they found the ball in less than five (minutes)."

So, who led Southwoods with 36 points in Day 1, was allowed to play his original ball and went on to par the hole for two points.

Earlier, Pagunsan was penalized two strokes for hitting his putt with his caddy close to his line of play on the 10th green. The country's amateur ace got a zero on the hole.

"With a clear conscience, I stand by my decision(s)," said Ayson.

Del Monte will play the Minoza brothers Paul and Ben, together with Louie Dacudao, Tristan Tabanas and Velez in the final round.

Artemio Murakami, Milko Yee, Laurence Negrido, Tonton Asistio and reigning Singapore Amateur champ Michael Bibat will try to nail down

Southwoods' second title today.

Meanwhile, Cebu got 33 points from Carl Almario, 30 from Andre Borromeo, 29 from Marko Samien to and 28 from veteran Gene Aznar to post 120 points and reclaim the lead in the Founders Division.

Pagcor, ABS-CBN International, Airbus, GE Aircraft Engines, Boeing, Mastercard International, Globe Platinum, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Golden Nuggets Hotel and People Asia are the major sponsors of the annual event.

Fortune Tobacco, Radio Mindanao Network, Premier Wine and Spirits, Star Cruises and 96.3 WRock are the corporate backers with RJ Broadcasting Network, Century Park Hotel, Asia Brewery Inc., INQ7.net, Tanduay Rum and Air Philippines the minor sponsors.

The scores:

Championship Division
385—Del Monte (128-125-132), Southwoods (130-127-128); 381—Canlubang (124-123-134); 327—Wack Wack (115-103-109); 300—Villamor (114-91-95); 268—Leyte (88-99-81); 207—Cotabato (65-64-78)

Founders Division
356—Cebu (125-111-120); 345—Riviera (121-112-112); 343—Negros (118-119-106); 332—Forest Hills (108-105-119); 315—Manila (107-100-108); 313—Pueblo De Oro (114-96-103); Sherwood Hills (105-107-94); 304—Valley (119-97-88); 219—Orchard (100-96-97); 292—John Hay (95-102-95); 282—Team LA (103-88-91); 270—Mt. Maalindang (93-93-84); 251—Camp Evangelista (88-75-88); 247—Davao (85-73-89); 226—Fil-Am Florida (90-72-64)

Friendship Division
264—Bacolod (88-77-99); 259—Victorias (77-93-89); 247—Stanford (76-91-88); 230—Maharlika (68-82-80); 222—South Cotabato (64-78-80); 218—UP Tee Jots (72-79-67); 218—Seattle (66-83-69); 216—SFO Crystal (75-77-64); 211—SFO Heritage (62-71-78); 206—San Jose GB (59-75-72); 203—Fil-Am Sydney (65-61-77)

Sportswriters Division
323—Iligan (104-111-108); 303—Sta. Elena (97-99-107); 295—Iloilo (97-110-88); 279—Palos Verdes (98-91-90); 273—Mac-tan (84-99-90); 272—Alabang (79-98-95); 270—Alia Vista (78-100-92); 263—Pamp-lona (105-96-62); 262—Paay (85-89-88); 260—Lumbia (80-90-90)

Sluggish Bata shows door to Thai rival

By June Navarro

SINGAPORE—Favored Efren "Bata" Reyes relied on better luck to carve out a 9-6 victory over Thailand's Wanshana Poomjaeng yesterday in the first round of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour at the Suntec Exhibition Hall here.

Reyes said his timing was off but the pockets played wide ("Wala sa timing ko pero malaki mga butas") as he signed autographs and posed for souvenir photos.

Stalled by a sluggish start, Reyes took advantage of Poomjaeng's collapse in the 11th rack to take three of the last five sets and advance to the second round.

"I have no choice but to entertain them," Reyes said smiling. "Had I faced a tougher opponent, I would have bowed out easily."

Reyes faces the winner between Vu Trong Khai of Vietnam and Korea's Ham Won-sik in the second round.

Francisco "Django" Bustamante's 9-4 victory over Lin Didi of China later in the day practically put all Filipino entries into the next round. Bustamante will now meet the winner between Singapore's Bernard Tay Choon Kiat and Vietnam's Nguyen Thanh Nam.

Lee Vann Corteza trounced Muhamad Junar-

to of Indonesia, 9-4, to arrange a second-round encounter with Japan's Satoshi Kawabata, while Gandy Valle forged a duel with Singapore's William Ang Boon Lay following a 9-2 thrashing of Au Siu-wai of Hong Kong.

Reyes will tangle with Vietnam's Vu Trong Khai, a 9-4 winner over Ham Won-Sik of Korea, while Gabica faces Toh Lian Han of Singapore in the next phase.

Antonio Gabica, who breezed past Japan's Kunihiro Takahashi, 9-4, is expected to meet Reyes in the quarterfinals should the Cebuano pool ace beat the survivor of the Toh Lian Han (Singapore)-Cheng Kuo-po (Chinese-Taipei) match in the second round.

Gabica beat Reyes in the P1-million Hope billiards championship in Manila last week but he's not about to let his guard down in the quest for the \$10,000 leg winner's prize in the organized by ESPN-Star Sports.

With Reyes up, 6-4, Poomjaeng blew a wide-open corner shot on the second ball and miscalculated the cue ball's line of motion on his next shot, allowing Reyes to clear the table and doom the Thai's chances.



REYES ponders his shot against Poomjaeng.

Laurente stakes OPBF crown in Japan today

WORLD Boxing Council No. 7 contender and Oriental and Pacific Boxing Federation lightweight champ Dennis Laurente stakes his title today when he takes on Japan's Chikashi Inada in a 12-round fight at the Korakuen Hall in Tokyo.

The southpaw Laurente (21-1-4, 11 KO's) of the Johnny Elorde stable takes on the Hiroshima-born Inada in a grudge rematch of their first confrontation in October 2004 won by the Filipino via a majority decision. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Kuh Ledesma **UNPLUGGED MASTERS** SCG
STEVIE WONDER, JAMES TAYLOR and more

KUH LEDESMA
 with special guests **JIMMY BONDOC & NOEL CABANGON**
 MARCH 11, 12, 18, 19 • 9PM • CAPTAIN'S BAR, MANDARIN ORIENTAL
 TICKETS AT: P1,500 / P1,000 / P800 • MUSIC MUSEUM & MANDARIN ORIENTAL PRODUCTION
 MOSSIMO • PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER • 1051 CROSSOVER • JAM 88.3 • WAJE 88.1 • WAG 88.9 • 88.7 • 102.9

Laguna tests CdO as adidas nat'l football kicks off today

THE BIG guns will dissect the host squad's strength from the sidelines when the 2005 PFF-Adidas National Men's Championship kicks off at 3 p.m. today at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro City.

Today's lone match, set immediately after the opening ceremonies, pits Cagayan de Oro against Laguna, last year's runner-up.

The weeklong tournament, also known as the Mayor Vicente Y. Emano Cup, features the eight squads that topped the recent qualifying matches staged in various provinces across the country.

The teams will be divided into two groups with Laguna, favorite Iloilo, Davao and host Cagayan de Oro forming Group A and Negros Occidental, Quezon, Zamboanga and reigning champion NCR vying in Group B.

Coach Jo Lapuz's darkhorse squad will be led by Miguel Lumbay, James Sombero and Sylvester Palarca on attack, Harvey Henk Calubiran in the midfield and Reynaldo Galarita in defense.

Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano, Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno, PFF president Juan Miguel G. Romualdez and adidas Philippines president Jose Antonio P. Alonte will be on hand at the opening ceremony.

The March 5-11 event is supported by PFF sponsor-partners Red Ribbon Bakeshop, SuperFerry and Petron. It is organized and hosted by the Cagayan de Oro Misamis Oriental Football Association and the Rotary Club of Bay Area and backed by Gov. Oscar Moreno, Rep. Tinnex Jaraula, Bombo Radyo Philippines and the Philippine Sports Commission.

PMI tows 3 NCR quints to students semifinals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DUMAGUETE CITY—They were all expected to gather in the National Students basketball semifinals, but the way the National Capital Region bets got there yesterday surely came as a surprise.

Defending champion Philippine Maritime Institute and University of Perpetual Help-Rizal struggled against separate rivals, even as National University overcame fellow NCR entry University of Santo Tomas, 84-81.

The PMI Admirals rallied from eight points down late in the third quarter to down hard-fighting Holy Cross of Davao, 69-61, at the Lamberto Macias Gym here.

The Perpetual Altas encountered rough sailing before subduing West Negros College of Bacolod, 60-52, over at the Tanjay Gym.

It will be PMI against NU in the semifinals today, with Perpetual battling Southern City College-Zamboanga in the other match.

The Zamboanguenos became the lone regional qualifier in the Final 4 by eliminating a Bohol Institute of Technology team that was hurrying to catch a ferry home Thursday.

In junior action, St. Clare College of Caloocan hurdled past Iloilo Central Commercial High, 65-56, also in Tanjay, to make the Final 4 along with defending champion San Beda, Philippine Christian University and Holy Child of Davao.

Next up for the Caloocan Saints, managed by former pro-cager Joel Dualan and coached by Rayban dela Cruz, are the Cubs, who fashioned

out a merciless 88-point rout of Sacred Heart-Cebu in the quarterfinals.

The Baby Dolphins will battle the Davao dribblers in the other juniors semifinals.

PMI was sluggish against Holy Cross and needed a verbal jolt from coach Diosdado Santiago to bring the Mariners back to their senses.

"I told them at halftime that I had already booked a flight for home tomorrow because they looked like they didn't want to win," said Santiago.

The Admirals, who trailed 33-36 going into the third quarter, grabbed the lead for good at 59-56 midway in the fourth quarter after slotman Larry Santiago scored six straight points.

PMI also succeeded in silencing Holy Cross main man John Escobar, who finished with only nine points—two in the second half—a day after his sensational 47-point performance in his team's triple overtime victory over University of Baguio.

Brothers Cris and Jay Santamaria and Erwin Castro took turns in making life miserable for the 6-foot-1/2 guard, who caught the eye of La Salle coach Franz Pumaren.

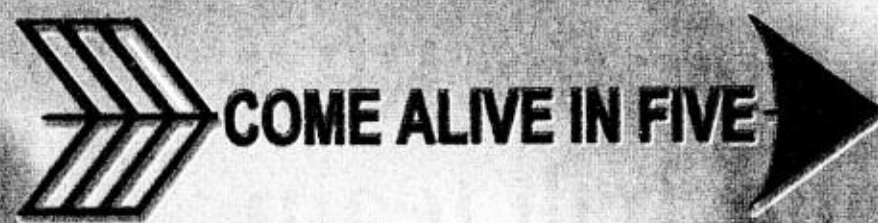
The La Salle mentor was among the slew of collegiate coaches "window-shopping" here along with Far Eastern's Bert Flores and Jose Rizal's Cris Calilan.

The Altas led by as many as 18 points, 53-35, early in the fourth quarter before the Mustangs unleashed a 17-5 bomb that cut the lead to 58-52 with one minute and 18 seconds left.

But center Marcel Cuengco laid up to give Perpetual a 60-52 lead, 48 seconds to go.



DE LA SALLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Homecoming '05



GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING

*All night entertainment featuring
 La Salle favorites for all ages...*

Gary Valenciano
*Route 70 with Ding Dong Eduque
 ...and other special guests*

*Hosted by Joney Reyes & Phoemela Baranda
 Directed by Jackie Aquino*

March 5, 2005
 Registration starts at 4 pm
 Thanksgiving Mass at 5 pm

DLSU-Manila Football Field

Class 1980 - Silver Jubilarians
 Class 1955 - Golden Jubilarians

Anniversary Classes:
 1945, 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975,
 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000

For details, contact any of the following:
 DLSAA Office: (02) 523-6158/526-5612
 DLSU BATCH80 Secretariat: (0927) 916-1011

making great things possible
Globe
 HANDYPHONE

GMA

International
 Container Terminal
 Services, Inc.

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.
The Insurance Standard

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ALL NBA ALL THIS WEEKEND!



SATURDAY



VS



8:00 PM on SOLAR SPORTS

SUNDAY

DENVER NUGGETS @ LA CLIPPERS
 8:30 AM | SOLAR SPORTS
 PORTLAND BLAZERS @ PHOENIX SUNS
 10:00 AM | RPM
 CHICAGO BULLS @ MILWAUKEE BUCKS
 12:00 NN | SOLAR SPORTS*

*VIA SATELLITE

TEXT NBA to 622
 for SMART subscribers



SOLAR INTERACTIVE

Tierro gives Pinoys 1-1 tie with Koreans

PATRICK JOHN Tierro played the role of spearhead to the hilt but Johnny Arcilla wilted, leaving the Philippines and South Korea on even terms after the opening singles' of their Asia-Oceania Zone Group II Davis Cup tie yesterday at the Philippine Columbian Association courts.

Tierro, a tall, young netter from Olongapo, finished strongly in each set to overpower Suk Hyun-joon, 7-5, 7-5, 6-4, for his second victory—and his first as a starter—in three Davis Cup stints.

Arcilla then engaged world-rated Jun Wong-sun in a long baseline battle that lasted all of five sets before a stiffening left leg allowed the Korean to escape with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7), 4-6, 6-4 decision in the second singles.

The two countries break their 1-1 deadlock today in the pivotal doubles starting at 1 p.m. with Joseph Victorino and

Rolando Ruel Jr. nominated by non-playing captain Johnny Jose to play against Chung Hee-seok and Kim Dong-hyung.

The actual protagonists, however, will not be known until noon today as the two teams could still change their lineups.

The reverse singles will be played tomorrow at 10 a.m. with Tierro facing Jun and Arcilla battling Suk.

"The pressure was great. I was rushing my shots in the opening set and it took me a while to get in the groove," said Tierro, now the country's No. 1 who registered his first Davis Cup win in a no-bearing reverse singles against Hong Kong last year.

"I told you we could spring some surprises here," said RP team manager Jean Henri Lhuillier, whose support greatly contributed to the steady rise of the team's level of play.

"The skill displayed by Tierro is the result of the many interna-

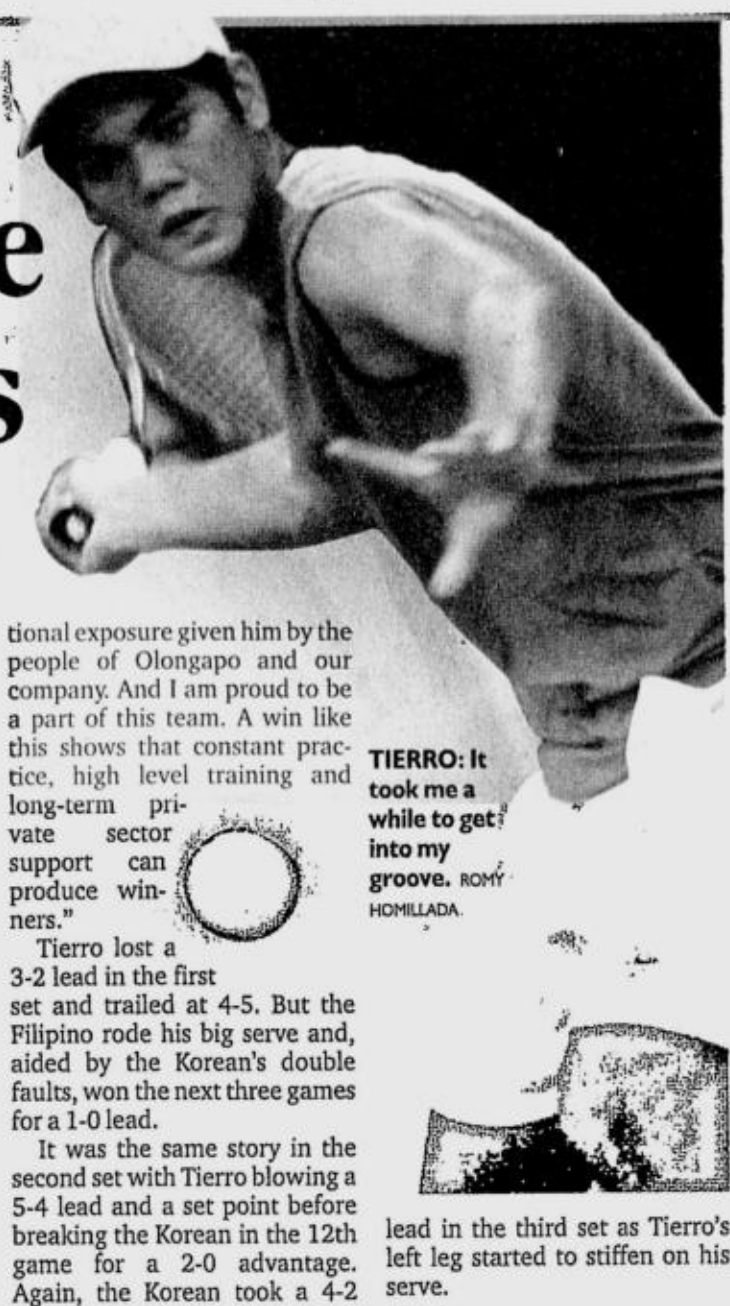
tional exposure given him by the people of Olongapo and our company. And I am proud to be a part of this team. A win like this shows that constant practice, high level training and long-term private sector support can produce winners."

Tierro lost a 3-2 lead in the first set and trailed at 4-5. But the Filipino rode his big serve and, aided by the Korean's double faults, won the next three games for a 1-0 lead.

It was the same story in the second set with Tierro blowing a 5-4 lead and a set point before breaking the Korean in the 12th game for a 2-0 advantage. Again, the Korean took a 4-2

TIERRO: It took me a while to get into my groove. ROMY HOMILADA.

lead in the third set as Tierro's left leg started to stiffen on his serve.



Lefty slays 'Blue collars share of

MIAMI—Low scores are typical at Doral when the palm trees are no longer swaying in strong south Florida wind, the one element that gives the Blue Monster its bite.

Right now, Phil Mickelson takes it deep no matter where he's playing.

He shot a career-low 60 in the second round at Phoenix. He shattered the course record at Spyglass Hill with a 62 on his way to another victory at Pebble Beach. And with hardly any wind in the opening round Thursday in the Ford Championship at Doral, Lefty again went low with 10 birdies in a round of 64 that left him in a four-way tie for the lead.

"The biggest thing is that when I go to the golf course now, if I can drive the ball in play, it's going long enough now to where I have wedges in," Mickelson said. "And it's making a big difference."

Only this time, he wasn't alone.

Two-time Masters champion Jose Maria Olazabal birdied his last three holes, giving him a share of the lead with Brian Davis of England and Marco Dawson.

Tiger Woods also got into the mix, making three straight birdies at the turn and finishing with a 15-foot par putt on the 18th hole for a 65.

Ninety-seven players in the 144-man field broke par, a record for the first round at Doral.

Mickelson now is 46 under par for his last eight rounds, dating to that 60 in the FBR Open. But considering the conditions, this



MICKELSON: Low score, high speed

round was more ordinary. "Even though it was a great round, the course played much better than did Spyglass or TPC at Scottsdale," Mickelson said. "This score will not

6 Fil-Ams want to play for RP volleyball team

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—Help is coming the way of the Philippine volleyball team straight from the United States.

Six Filipino-Americans, including a pair of sisters, have expressed their desire to be part of Team Philippines for this year's Southeast Asian Games.

Among the players, who have contacted the Philippine Volleyball Federation, are Christian Tuyay of the University of Hawaii and Justin Schnor of the University of Chicago and touring pros Hiedi and Hietter Ilustre of the American Beach Volleyball Federation.

GAMES TODAY (San Carlos Gym)
2 p.m.—Macau vs Chinese Taipei
4 p.m.—Philippines vs Indonesia

The 6-foot-3 Tuyay is a setter and was a starter for the 2002 US NCAA Division I champion team University of Hawaii, while the 6-6 Schnor is a spiker.

"We've seen them play and they're good," said PVP president Roger Banzuela. "They've already sent communications to us but they are still students and they have to sacrifice their studies to train with the RP team at least three months before the SEA Games."

The current RP team is one of the tallest squads ever with an average height of six feet. It excludes 6-7 Robert Ngo of La Salle-Dasmariñas, who failed to join the RP team see-



THE PHILIPPINES' Herminio Gallo Jr. (15) scores against two Taiwanese defenders as teammates Edgar Penetrante (7), Dante Alinsunurin (9) and team captain Ariel dela Cruz (6) look on in their game Thursday.

ing action in the Men's Volleyball World Championship qualifying tournament being held at the University of San Carlos Gym here.

Meanwhile, Chinese Taipei lived up to its billing as it swamped Tonga, 25-15, 25-18, 25-15, last night to post its second straight win.

Indonesia tied the Taiwanese for the lead with a 25-17, 25-19, 25-11 romp over Macau, who fell to 1-2.

The Indons, boasting five holdovers from their Vietnam SEA Games champion team, took less than an hour in posting the win.

The Filipinos drew a bye yesterday and will meet the Indons today in a game that would virtually decide who among them would join the Taiwanese in the second round of eliminations slated in Kazakhstan middle of this year.

SPORTSWATCH

NCA stages 7-cock tilt Tuesday

THE PREMIERE National Cockers Association (NCA), recognized as the biggest organization of big-time cockers, stages another 7-cock derby on March 8 and 10 (Tuesday and Thursday) at the Araneta Coliseum. The NCA central committee also announced yesterday that the second leg of "2005 World Slasher Cup 8-Cock Invitational Derby" will be staged on June 14, 16 and 18. The first leg held last January attracted a record-breaking field of 113 entries, the biggest ever in the history of World Slasher Cup. Interested parties may call 911-2928 and 911-3101 for details. Meanwhile, gamefowl breeders have until March 31 to submit their cockers for screening and wingbanding. For appointment on farm-to-farm screening, call 911-3101 and 911-2928. Co-hosts of the 7-cock event are NCA president Ito Nnares, Jet Fernando of Pampanga, MTJ Brothers and Albert Dichavez.

Backyard breeders join Superfights II

SMALL-TIME cockers and backyard breeders all over Metro Manila compete for a share of the P1.1-million total pot when they clash in the Superfights II One-Cock Fastest Win on March 14 and 16. "We are expecting to surpass the 404 entries registered in the Superfights I last January based on the strong feedback from participants," said pit manager Eric dela Rosa. Registration fee is only P2,500. The fastest kill champion will get P200,000; second, P150,000; third, P100,000; fourth, P40,000; eighth, P30,000; ninth, Pioneer DVD component; 10th, 10 cubic-foot refrigerator; 11th, 21 inch-flat color TV and 12th, Elba four-burner gas range. The 13th to 40th placers will also receive valuable prizes. For other inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 and 816-6750. Event sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite.

Davao derby stakes whopping P8 million

A MAMMOTH P8 million in total prizes will be up for grabs when the 2005 annual "Araw ng Dabaw" derby, which features more than 300 entries seeing action, kicks off from March 8 to 20. The derby—dubbed as the Payanig sa Davao 7-Cock Derby—will be held in different venues and will offer up to P6 million to the different champions. There will be seven separate 2-cock preliminaries on March 8 and 9 at the Casino Filipino-Davao; 11 and 12 at the New Davao Matina Gallera and 14, 15 and 16 at the Davao Aquino Coliseum. The 2-cock semis take place on the 18th at the Matina Gallera, followed by the 3-cock championship on the 20th also at Matina. Entry fee is pegged at P33,000 (P18,000 in the elimination and P15,000 during the semifinals onward). Dra. Sally Jonson Thunderbird's Gamefowl Specialist for Davao leads the company's marketing campaign for the said event.

Miñoza misses cut;

PHUKET, Thailand—THE EMINENT Frankie Miñoza missed the halfway cut Friday, leaving Angelo Que and Cassius Casas for the weekend rounds of the \$500,000 Thailand Open at the Blue Canyon Country Club here.

Que, who ruled the Vietnam Open last year, improved on his opening 71 with a 70 that kept him among the top 20 players with a three-under-par total of 141 after 36 holes.

Casas, back in the Asian Tour after hurling this year's qualifying tournament, rallied with a 71 after a 75 and barely got

through the cutoff wire set at 147.

Still rated as the Philippines' top star despite losing his Japan Tour card, Miñoza struggled with rounds of 76 and 150 total.

Australian Scott Barr kept off the trail for a second straight day to leave stroke from Jeev Milkha Singh of India.

The Singapore-based Barr produced another masterful performance, shooting four-under-par 68 at Blue Canyon Club to lead at 11-under-par 133. Singh, the joint first round leader

Hewitt, Arthurs lift Aussies to 2-0 start

SYDNEY, Australia—Lleyton Hewitt and Wayne Arthurs each won in straight sets Friday to give Australia a 2-0 lead over Austria in its Davis Cup World Group match at the Sydney International Tennis Center.

Hewitt, playing for the first time since losing the Australian Open final to Marat Safin on Jan. 30, beat Austria's Alexander Peya, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4.

Arthurs, who won his first career singles title at Scottsdale, Arizona, last weekend, beat Austrian No. 1 Jurgen Melzer, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-4, on a grass court at the 2000 Olympic site.

Arthurs and Todd Woodbridge can clinch the first-round for Australia on Saturday when they play Julian Knowle and Peya in the doubles. The reverse singles are scheduled for Sunday.

The winner here faces the winner of the Czech Republic-Argentina tie at the quarterfinals in July. AP



HEWITT: Early lead

Foreign-born Filipinos for SEAG gets FG okay

THERE'S no harm in boosting the national teams with Fil-foreign athletes, First Gentleman Mike Arroyo said yesterday.

"There are sports that have no chance of developing hometown athletes," explained Arroyo, whose FG Foundation helps bankroll the athletes' training and equipment for the Manila 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

"Maybe we can provide dual citizenship for some athletes who are qualified," added Arroyo during yesterday's SCOOP session at the Kamayan-Padre Paura. "In other countries, they get imports. We can also do that. But of course, the homegrown

athletes are still our priority."

Meanwhile, Philippine Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco said other countries have offered to help improve the Philippines' sports program.

He said Russia is willing to impart its expertise in sports psychology, Cuba in boxing and Australia in swimming.

"We also need to upgrade our sports program, not just the athletes' natural abilities," said Cojuangco.

Two Fil-British players and one Fil-American—Chris Greatwich, Chad Gould and Karen Esteve—will be suiting up for the football team in the biennial meet. Jasmin W. Payo



GOLD MEDALIST—Gold medalist Raul Arambulo (center) of the Philippines topped the individual Olympic Round of the 2005 1st Asian Archery Grand Prix in Bangkok, Thailand. Arambulo beat silver medalist Myo Aung San (left) and third-placer Ye Min Swe of Myanmar.

Epson Cup touches off second edition

AFTER gaining remarkable success in its initial staging, the Epson Cup badminton championships will touch off with its second edition in two different venues next month.

Epson Cup 2 will be held on April 9-17 with qualifying rounds at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City, while the Greenhills Badminton Center in San Juan plays host in the playoffs.

"We hope to encourage more participants this time," said Randy Kanapi, Epson's marketing chief.

Leveling schedules are slated on March 12-13 (1-5 p.m.), March 19 (6-10 p.m.) and March 20 (1-5 p.m.) at the Pioneer Badminton Center on Pioneer Street.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association, the event is backed by Shell, Wilson, Apple Center, Konica, Citibank, Mizuno, Philippine Daily Inquirer, UNO Magazine, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, yehey.com and PBN. For details, call 6385343, 7460828 or visit www.epson.com.ph.



TORRE

Torre, Dableo keep Tanauan chess records perfect

By Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

TANAUAN CITY—Grandmaster Eugene Torre trounced unheralded Julius Sinangote yesterday to remain unscathed after two rounds of the P200,000 Tanauan Chess Open-Mayor's Cup at the

Speaker Jose Laurel Memorial Gymnasium here.

Torre prevailed in 38 moves of an English Opening, his second victory coming less than two hours after opening his bid in the P200,000 Active tournament with a quick first-round demolition of Randy Cueto of Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

The 53-year-old Torre shared the lead with GM-candidates Ronald Dableo and Jayson Gonzales, reigning National Open champion NM Darwin Laylo, IM Barlo Nadera, IM Chito Gamma, NM Emmanuel Senador and IM Petronio Roca.

Torre became the prohibitive favorite to bag the champion's purse of

P100,000 after fellow GMs Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. and Nelson Mariano II as well as GM-candidate Mark Paragua begged off at the last minute.

Asia's first GM is scheduled to play giant-killer Merben Roque, who downed NM Mario Rebano of Tacloban in 38 moves of an English

Opening, in the third round.

In other featured matches, fifth-seeded Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling bowed to NM Roland Joseph Perez in 33 moves of a Veresov Opening and the No. 2 seed Dableo made a perfect start with victories over unrated Frederick Isip and Rodolfo Panopio Jr.

Monster, Ford lead

myself from the field at all, so I need to go out tomorrow and do the same thing."

The average score was 70.4, helped by 51 rounds in the 60s.

Mickelson had a hunch he needed a low score to get near the top of the leaderboard, not only because there was hardly any wind, but because of the world-class players taking aim at the Blue Monster.

Doral has one of the strongest fields this year for a stroke-play tournament, with 11 of the top 12 players from the world ranking. And most of them delivered the performance everyone expected.

US Open champion Retief Goosen was at 67, while No. 1 Vijay Singh birdied three of his last four holes for a 68. David Toms, coming off an overwhelming victory in the Match Play Championship, showed he's human with only a 69.

"When I know that the field is so strong, and you've got guys like Tiger and Vijay and Retief and Mike Weir and David Toms, guys who are making a lot of birdies and have the ability to shoot 62 or 63, I find myself pushing to go lower," Mickelson said. "Four or 5 under just isn't going to cut it with those guys in the field."

But they weren't the only ones going low on a cool, overcast day with hardly any wind.

There was a slight breeze at times, which came out of the north. That made the closing holes particularly easy, and Mickelson went after them.

Que, Casas in

Barr with an opening 65, stayed in touch with a second round 69 while the in-form Scott Strange of Australia was a further stroke back following a 67.

Japanese veteran Gohei Sato and promising Indian Shiv Kapur share fourth place on 138 after carding rounds of 72 and 68 respectively in what is Thailand's 39th national Open.

Que had nines of 34-36 and was tied for 10th with nine others. Also making it was former Philippine Open champion Rick Gibson of Canada, who was at 143 (74-69).

Heat destroy Nets as Shaq comes back

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Shaquille O'Neal returned from a three-game absence and had 20 points and 13 rebounds Thursday, and Dwyane Wade led a third-quarter surge that sent the Miami Heat past the New Jersey Nets, 106-90.

Wade had 27 points, eight assists and six rebounds for the Heat, who ended New Jersey's three-game winning streak.

The Heat went 2-1 in their three games without O'Neal, who sprained his left knee Feb. 22 against Chicago.

"My knee felt pretty good," O'Neal said. "I was hurting last week and (coach) Stan (Van Gundy) told me to take a couple extra days off, so I did."

The final two quarters were so lopsided that Alonzo Mourning was able to make his Heat debut during garbage time, playing the final 2:19 and grabbing two rebounds. The 11-year veteran, who left Miami as a free agent two summers ago, re-signed with the Heat earlier this week after being traded from New Jersey to Toronto and then being waived by the Raptors.

Vince Carter scored 27 points to lead the Nets, but he shot just 1-for-11 in the second half and missed his final seven attempts. The Nets shot only 37 percent overall and were outrebounded 47-31.

"I think we can play with the Miami Heat. We showed that," said Carter. "The one thing is we just can't have lapses, quarters where we don't play our best basketball. I think we can play with the best teams in the league. I don't care what anybody else thinks."

Nuggets 96, Pacers 87

In Denver, Marcus Camby finished with 17 points, 22 rebounds, seven assists and seven blocked shots, and Carmelo Anthony had 28 points, helping Denver down Indiana for its fifth straight win.

The Nuggets had 27 assists on 31 field goals and improved to 12-4 since coach George Karl

took over on Jan. 27, and moved into a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Denver has won seven straight at home—6-0 under Karl—and has its longest win streak since taking five in a row in December 2003.

Stephen Jackson led the Pacers with 16 points.

Indiana All-Star forward Jermaine O'Neal sprained his right shoulder on a drive to the basket in the second quarter. X-rays were negative, but O'Neal was still in pain at halftime and said the trainer had to pop his shoulder back in place.

Suns 100, Pistons 97

In Phoenix, Steve Nash returned to the Phoenix lineup with 16 points and 14 assists—including a crucial 3-point shot with 1:06 to play—and the Suns snapped Detroit's eight-game winning streak.

Amare Stoudemire battled the Pistons' bruising front line for 26 points and 10 rebounds. Quentin Richardson scored 20, including 5-of-8 on 3-pointers.

Rasheed Wallace led Detroit with 22 points and 13 rebounds. Ben Wallace had 18 boards. Antonio McDyess scored 14, all in the second half.

With the Suns leading 95-94 after Chauncey Billups' layup with 1:20 to go, Nash, who missed three games with a sore hamstring, made the 3-pointer to boost the lead to 98-94, and then his two free throws increased the lead to 100-94. AP



HIS KNEES are fine, the Heat are winning and Shaquille O'Neal has every reason in the world to be happy.

EXPERIENCE LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

LIVE & EXCLUSIVE ON

Catch RACEDAY, CHEQUERED FLAG and all the Grand Prix action on STAR SPORTS, with presenter Richard Drew and expert commentators Steve Slater and Chris Goodwin.

WE KNOW YOUR GAME

5 MARCH		6 MARCH	
Qualifying 10.00am	RaceDay 10.00am	Foster's Australian Grand Prix 10.45am	Chequered Flag 1.00pm

For the latest updates, please refer to www.espnstar.com

CATCH THE GREATEST VARIETY OF SPORTS ON ESPN STAR SPORTS. AVAILABLE ON OVER 200 CABLE OPERATORS

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

See'Em All!



AYALA CINEMAS



Movies/schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729-7777

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU
1 HITCH	1 SON OF THE MASK	1 CONSTANTINE	1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	2 HITCH	2 LEMONY SNICKETS	2 HITCH	2 ALFIE
3 CONSTANTINE	3 CONSTANTINE	3 BUNSHINBA	3 LEMONY SNICKETS	3 CONSTANTINE
4 LEMONY SNICKETS	4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	4 HITCH	4 CONSTANTINE	4 SON OF THE MASK
5 THE AVIATOR		5 THE AVIATOR	5 THE AVIATOR	

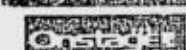
At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
34th BPI Installment Madness March 2-28, 2005	Ansons Exhibit March 1-10, 2005	Justice League March 4-6, 2005

ENTERTAINMENT LINE!

GREENBELT 3 PARK

Greenbelt Alfresco Theatre Nights
featuring Songs from the Hit Broadway
Musical Mamma Mia March 4 & 5, 2005



REPATORY PHILIPPINES presents The Little Shop of Horrors
at REP's GLOBE THEATER for the Month of March

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

Award winning films deserve to be watched
in world-class cinemas...



MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Best Actress in a Leading Role (Hilary Swank)
Best Achievement in Cinematography
Best Achievement in Art Direction
Best Achievement in Editing
Best Achievement in Costume Design

THE AVIATOR

ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role (Cate Blanchett)
Best Achievement in Cinematography
Best Achievement in Art Direction
Best Achievement in Editing
Best Achievement in Costume Design



AYALA CINEMAS... Beyond Movies.



Feb 17 & 18, 6PM
Feb 19, 11:30AM,
3PM & 6PM
Feb 20, 11:30AM,
2:30PM & 4:30PM
Feb 22, Meet & Greet
Glorietta 2 lobby
Glorietta Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
Glorietta 757-7777
Greenbelt 757-7777



Feb 25 - 27, 11AM,
3PM & 6PM
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
942-2702 & 772-1800



March 4 - 5, 11AM,
4:30PM & 7PM
March 6, 11AM,
3:30PM & 6:30PM
Activity Center
Customer Service Hotline:
(032) 231-6342 loc. 324



AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!



A GATHERING
OF
SUPER HEROES
AT THE
AYALA MALLS

"WITHOUT A DOUBT ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR! POWERFUL!"
- Tony Lucking, TALKING PICTURES

"Brooks makes Spanglish a rich blend
of humor and heartbreak."
- Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE

"Spanglish is a performer's showcase."
- Mike Clark, USA TODAY

Film (Paz Vega), a beautiful, native Mexican woman
becomes the housekeeper for the affluent, yet troubled,
Closely family (headed by Adam Sandler and Tia Leoni).
The result is a witty, perceptive collision of cultures and values,
and a refreshingly honest look at such life-altering
commitments as marriage, parenthood and devotion to family.

MPAA Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

OPENS MARCH 9 EXCLUSIVELY AT



AYALA CINEMAS

Spanglish

Accompany with a language to the world

CUSTOMER SERVICE TEXT HOTLINE: 0917-6095900 • CUSTOMER SERVICE HOTLINE: Glorietta - 757-7777; from 10am
to 8pm • Greenbelt - 757-4853; from 11am to 12am • Alabang Town Center - 842-2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231-5342 loc 324 • AYALA CINEMA LINKS: For screening times call 729-7777.
Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart).
Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.



Lovemall!

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



CINEMA ACCESS
635-5555
FOR ALL BRANCHES

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

632-9115/16

1 CONSTANTINE • THX	6 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	7 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
3 SON OF THE MASK 2	8 INFECTION
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
4 BUNSHINSABA	9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 HITCH	10 MEET THE FOCKERS
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA

536-7809 to 12

1 HITCH	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 SON OF THE MASK 2	5 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 CONSTANTINE	6 BUNSHINSABA
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
4 INFECTION	7 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

METRO EAST

682-8193 • 682-8199

1 INFECTION	5 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50	10:25 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:30
2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	6 HITCH
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	7 CONSTANTINE
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	10:35 1:05 3:35 6:05 8:20 10:30
4 SON OF THE MASK 2	8 BUNSHINSABA (OUIJA BOARD)
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:30	10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50 10:30

NOVALICHES

935-3229/31

1 CONSTANTINE	5 RAY
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55
2 HITCH	6 SIDEWAYS
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55	11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55
3 FOOTSTEPS	7 RESERVE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 8:55	
4 SON OF THE MASK 2	8 RESERVE
11:00 1:20 3:40 6:00 8:25	

PIONEER

687-5378

1 HITCH	3 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 CONSTANTINE	4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

CITISQUARE MALABON

288-2576

CAINTA

240-4661

1 SHALL WE DANCE	1 HITCH
2 CONSTANTINE	2 SIDEWAYS
3 INFECTION	3 SON OF THE MASK 2
4 NIGHT JOB	4 CONSTANTINE

Exclusive SCREENING

Robinsons Movieworld
NOVALICHES

March 02 - March 08

Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas is proud to present an exclusive screening of the critically acclaimed film "Footsteps" by director Karla Loyola. The film tells the story of a young woman who discovers her true identity through a series of events. The screening is held at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas, Novaliches, from March 02 to March 08. Tickets are available at Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas, Novaliches, and Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas, Alabang. For more information, call Robinsons Movieworld Cinemas at 635-5555.



STA. ROSA

(049) 837-0907

LIPA

(043) 757-3644

(043) 312-5871

1 CONSTANTINE	1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 INFECTION	2 RACING STRIPES
3 SAKSI DRIVER	3 CONSTANTINE
4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS	4 HELLWOLF
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	5 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13

DASMARIÑAS

(046) 852-2125

ANGELES

(046) 892-2348

1 HITCH	1 HITCH
2 NIGHT JOB	2 INFECTION
3 CONSTANTINE	3 CONSTANTINE
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA	4 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
5 RACING STRIPES	

IMUS

(046) 875-3838

STARMILLS

(045) 875-1927

(045) 961-5270

1 HITCH	1 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 SON OF THE MASK 2	2 SAKSI...DRIVER
3 SAKSI...DRIVER	3 INFECTION
4 CONSTANTINE	4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN	5 HITCH
6 HELLWOLF	6 CONSTANTINE

BACOLOD

(034) 441-0453

ILOILO

(033) 336-9070

1 CONSTANTINE	1 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
2 MEET THE FOCKERS	2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13	3 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4 SIDEWAYS	4 ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
5 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
6 SHALL WE DANCE	6 CONSTANTINE



The
Perfect Gift
All Year Round

A Pre Paid Movie Pass to the Hottest Seats in town.

Get Special discounts for volume purchases!

For marketing and event reservations please call Marketing Services Department at 687-7945 to 47 locals 14 and 15

NOW SHOWING

**THE VERDICT IS OUT!
THE BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR!**

4 WINNER
ACADEMY AWARDS®
BEST PICTURE
BEST DIRECTOR
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
BEST ACTRESS

**FACE
YOUR
FEAR**

**FIGHT
TO
WIN**

CLINT EASTWOOD
HILARY SWANK
MORGAN FREEMAN

MILLION DOLLAR BABY

© 1994 Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. All Rights Reserved. Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. is a registered service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. is a registered service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P. Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. is a registered service mark of Time Warner Entertainment Company, L.P.

MTRCB ▶ **PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed
in or accompanied by a parent or adult.

OPENS MARCH 9

**HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN ANYMORE?**

The Evolution of the Specie

CHRISTINA
RICCI
JOSHUA
JACKSON
SHANNON
ELIZABETH
JESSE
EISENBERG

A WES CRAVEN FILM

CURSED

DIRECTED BY WES CRAVEN WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMSON

MIRAMAX CINEMA PRESENTS **THE** **WEDDING** **RECESSION** **STARRING** **ANDREW** **COOPER** **AND** **LAURENCE** **FISCHBUND** **CASTING** **BY** **DAVID** **W. **WILSON**** **PRODUCED** **BY** **DAVID** **W. **WILSON**** **SCREENPLAY** **BY** **DAVID** **W. **WILSON**** **DIRECTED** **BY** **DAVID** **W. **WILSON****

your last chance to see
the one-of-a-kind musical genius <

Ray

- 2005 Golden Globe Awards Best Actor Winner
- 77th Annual Academy Awards Best Actor in a leading role

- JAMIE FOXX -

• 77th Annual Academy Awards nominee for Best Picture and Costume Design category

now showing

9

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
NOVALICHES

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

coloured through *Solar Entertainment Corporation*

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE STORY OF RAY CHARLES

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB ▶ R-13	STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
----------------------------	------------------------------

Whatever happens...

...don't open your eyes.

Ouija Board

Bunshinsaba

©A Post Pictures & Toilet Pictures
Distributed by: Bruce Voss International

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB ▶ **PG-13**

Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed
if accompanied by a parent or adult.

What you hide, he will find.
What you do, he will know.
In the end, The Cutter will see it all.

CUTTER [kʊtər]: One who specializes in editing people's recorded memories derived from brain implants.

robin williams jim caviezel

the **final** cut

LEWIS CINE ENTERTAINMENT, A DIVISION OF LUCASFILM LTD., AN AMERICAN FILM PRODUCTION CORPORATION, PRESENTS "THE FEAR LIST" STARRING JAMES CAAN, JAMES FENNER, AND JAMES WOOD. CASTING BY "THE FEAR LIST" CASTING COMPANY. COSTUME DESIGNER: JAMES WOOD. MUSIC BY JAMES WOOD. EDITOR: JAMES WOOD. PRODUCTION DESIGNER: JAMES WOOD. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS: JAMES WOOD AND JAMES WOOD. PRODUCED BY JAMES WOOD. WRITTEN BY JAMES WOOD. DIRECTED BY JAMES WOOD.

OPENS MARCH 9

SA P30 MILYON* NA IPAMIMIGAY, ARAW-ARAW MARAMING MANANALO!

SMART Load's Milyon-Milyon Papremyo!



Sa bawat load mo, kahit sa halagang P30 lang, puwede ka nang magwagi!

For 30 days, from February 23 to March 24, *araw-araw may 40 masuwerteng SMART subscribers na mananalo ng P25,000 each!
Kaya register na for FREE at mag-LOAD araw-araw!

Mag-register na para maka-join:

Key-In MILYON space
 REG space
 <Full Name>* <Address>*
 <Birthday-mmddyyyy>*
 <Gender-M or F>

MILYON REG
 Mica Cruz*
 12 Sta. Cruz St.,
 Manila*03191981*
 F

Send to 270.

270

To check the
 number of raffle
 entries earned*,
 key in MILYON
 ENTRY.

(Cost is P2.50 per Inquiry)

MILYON
 ENTRY

Send to 270.

270

*Raffle entries earned per load are qualified for the daily draw but will be reflected the following day.

SMART Load Denomination

P 30
 P 60
 P115
 P200

Raffle Entries Earned

1 entry
 3 entries
 10 entries
 20 entries

Available for:

Buddy

Text

Load Load

amp

Prepaid



See posters and flyers for details.
 Promo is from February 23 to March 24, 2005
 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0993, Series of 2005.

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, *888 using your SMART cellphone, send a text message to 888 (P1.00 per message sent in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation), e-mail us at customerservice@smart.com.ph, log on to www.smart.com.ph or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo**SATURDAY** Special

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

NOW SHOWING**New Swank, Smith starrers pack emotional wallop and comic punch**

By Rito P. Asilo

"Million Dollar Baby"D: Clint Eastwood
S: Clint Eastwood, Hilary Swank, Morgan Freeman

AFTER a frustrating visit to her ungrateful, exploitative family, Maggie (Hilary Swank) tells Clint Eastwood's character, "I got nothing but you, Frankie." For many of us, one person's unfettered love is more than enough to make up for a lifetime of loss and loneliness.

Thirty-one-year-old Maggie, who has been a waitress since age 13, strikes an unlikely friendship with boxing trainer Frankie after he reluctantly agrees to teach her, upon the prodding of aging failed boxer Scrap (Morgan Freeman)—from whose perspective this movie's powerful story is told.

For the persistent girl, boxing is her ticket to escape her sordid life and dead-end future. She is willing to "risk everything for a dream that nobody sees but you."

For his part, Frankie finds in Maggie the daughter on whom he longs to shower his love. Interestingly, the hardened man has been

going to church daily for the past 23 years, a fact that befuddles even the parish priest. But, in moments of solitude, you'll find him silently straddling a box full of undelivered mail for his estranged daughter, Katie.

We're tempted to reveal how the story ends, but that would rob you of the film's soaring, life-affirming beauty and the gut-wrenching emotional wallop it packs. One word of advice: Don't miss this film!

Eastwood, our favorite director since we "discovered" his storytelling prowess in 1990's "White Hunter, Black Heart," tells his tale (adapted

from Jerry Boyd's "Rope Burns: Stories from the Corner") devoid of spectacle and cloying emotionality. The clarity and honesty that resonate from Eastwood, Swank and Freeman's portrayals draw empathy and understanding for their characters.

As an artist of unparalleled sensitivity, Eastwood knows how to infuse subtle humor even in the midst of agonizing pain. As a filmmaker, he presents moral questions with no heavy hand. He leaves the viewer to ponder on them, but he indelibly drives his point right to the heart of the matter.

NEW SWANK/ A2-4

SWANK AND FREEMAN. Subtle humor in the midst of agonizing pain.



"KC" Israel
Student
Icamania

Don't Let ACNE Scar Your Son or Daughter--for life

Act now - before it's too late!

Who hasn't seen many an adult's face pockmarked by ugly scars left by acne or pimples? Such eruptions usually start with adolescence - which is when you should begin fighting them, as they come.

- **Hygienization** aseptic, scarless removal of unwanted pimples blackheads, whiteheads and warts.
- **Dekeratization.** The peeling off of the outer skin layer to bring out a younger, lovelier skin underneath. Without damaging underlying tissues.
- **Beauty Skin Enhancement.** Caring for your skin with proven beauty skin formulations available to our clients.
- **Other Special Services.** Permanent eyebrow, eyeliner & lip line tattoo, semi-permanent eyelash curling, cosmetic surgery by a certified plastic surgeon.

nora dela rosa
Since 1972

Main Clinic:
G/F, 427 Martinez St., Mandaluyong City
Clinic Schedules:
Monday-Friday 10AM to 7PM
Saturday: 9AM to 6PM
US (California) Branch:
10041 Lampton Ave., Gardengrove, California
USA 92840 Tel: (714) 530-3124 c/o Dr. Pearl Neri

Nora's Hotline
532-2115

MEDICINES AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING OUTLETS:
GREENHILLS • MEGAMALL • ALABANG

THE PODIUM EMI UCC COFFEE CreaPos 1.5 Gram

present

Unforgettable Live!

Martin Nievera's album launch

The Lounge at The Podium
2nd level
March 5, 2005
Saturday
5pm onwards

Listen to Martin sing songs from his new album, and meet the man behind the unforgettable music as he signs autographs after.

Jam 88.3
your kind of mix

THE PODIUM
18 adb avenue, ortigas center

WAVE 89.1
HAPPY PEOPLE. HAPPY MUSIC.



Run to our luckiest sale of the year!

Get up to 80% off in our Year of the Rooster Sale!

From February 1 to March 15, 2005, up to 80% discount on selected fashion, toys, sporting goods, watches, eyewear, housewares and electronics for you and your family to enjoy!

Promo is valid in Fiestamall and Duty Free Philippines Waterfront, Lahug, Cebu City.



THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 0322, SERIES OF 2005

Ditsi Carolino's 'Bunso' pierces the heart

By Ronald G. Mangubat

HERE'S a scene in Ditsi Carolino's latest documentary, "Bunso," that really pierces the heart: A young boy, less than 10 years old, sent by his parents to jail for snatching, confronts his mother and with childlike innocence asks: "What kind of a parent are you? Why did you send me to jail? What do you think will happen to me here?"

There are no tears shed. In fact, the mother is even caught by the camera smiling, as if amused by her son's questions. But the boy's eyes blaze with intense hatred and bitterness. His words are aimed not only at his parents, but also at the cruel and claustrophobic world he inhabits.

Abject poverty

"Bunso" is a touching study of the lives of children who are sent to jail for petty crimes like theft and drugs, as a result of abject poverty and their hostile environment. Shot in a decrepit jail in Cebu, the 64-minute documentary focuses on two children who candidly narrate in Cebuano



"BUNSO." Delivers strong message about parenting.

(with English subtitles) how they have landed in jail, the violence inflicted to them by their parents, what it's like to be in the company of adult inmates, and their simple joys and deep pains.

Three key elements make this documentary outstanding: First, the choice of case studies is very impressive. The two children are smart, sensitive, articulate and very natural in front of the camera.

Everything that they say comes from the heart, and Carolino's camera captures not just their innocence, but also the very essence of their childhood, which was taken away from them by the very people who were supposed to protect and love them, and the harsh environment in which they grew up.

Second, the naturalness of the whole film is so pronounced that, at one point, we feel like we're right there inside the dank, dirty jail. Unlike other documentaries which look contrived, "Bunso" makes you feel that everything you see and hear is real.

Simplicity

Third, the simplicity with which the whole film unfolds slowly creeps right smack into your guts. There are no distracting effects, music is quiet and minimal, and natural light is maximized.

During the question-and-answer portion following the film's recent showing at SM Megamall, the mild-mannered Carolino said it took her three years to finish "Bunso." And the time and care clearly showed in the way the film was structured and edited.

Unlike other "fastfood" documentaries which take only a month or two to finish, "Bunso" gestated for a long

DITSI/A2-6

Joyce Jimenez stresses importance of education

By Jocelyn Valle

LAST Feb. 7, Joyce Jimenez left the country to complete a degree in marketing at an Australian university.

"I've always wanted to be a teacher, but show business beckoned," she explained to us four days before she left the country.

Entrepreneur

he star of sex flicks like "Scorpio Nights 2" and "Warat" has turned entrepreneur via Private Joyce and Skin, which manufacture intimate apparel and scents/toiletries, respectively.

While her business partner takes care of the daily operations of their company, Joyce is in charge of marketing and promotions. "I'll be more effective with my role in the business if I know what my job is about," she pointed out.

Joyce took two years of her course at Thames University before she was lured Down Under. "I love the beach. The place is perfect for me," she enthused.

Joyce's fans need not fret, though. The dusky stunner promised to come home during school breaks and the holiday season. She also completed a movie before leaving.

"Birhen ng Manaoag," where Joyce plays one of the Marian devotees, dramatizes stories of faith and redemption. Shooting the movie had reinforced her spiritual commitment. "I consider myself religious," she said. "Though I grew up in the States, I was raised by my parents the



JIMENEZ. "Birhen ng Manaoag" reinforced her spiritual commitment.

traditional Catholic way." Joyce is aware that some people find it hard to accept that sexy stars can be religious, too. "But I don't care what they think," she observed. "I used to hear mass in Baclaran, but I didn't do that for them."

Companion

Joyce stressed that she didn't break someone's heart before flying to Australia. "Wendell Ramos is just a friend," she said, referring to her companion in the India episode of "Extra Challenge." "We enjoy each other's company."

Who knows, when she comes home for a vacation, she just might be singing a different tune—for a guy with an Aussie accent. After all, Oz isn't just known for its kangaroos and koalas; it's also synonymous with Mel Gibson, Hugh Jackman, Heath Ledger and Outback Jack!

In defense of Nora Aunor

By Nestor U. Torre

NORA Aunor's loyal followers are ticked off by "reports" about the superstar's "woeful" existence in the United States. They include her allegedly being so broke that she is living in the homes of fans and borrowing money from them; her losing a lot of money in casinos; the immigration service being on the lookout for her for overstaying, etc.

What irks Nora's fans even more is the way that these "reports" are being made, practically delighting in her misery. How gleefully cynical can you get?

To balance the picture, Nora's friends hasten to debunk the rumors: Her career

may not be at its peak, but she's enjoying herself in the US, performing in shows for Filipino communities, and savoring her respite from Manila's bitchy show biz scene.

Public scrutiny

In the States, Nora can go back to enjoying the simple things in life, away from nitpicking public scrutiny and comment. This may be something her cynical and materialistic detractors will never understand, but there it is.

Nora's defenders also nix the rumors about Nora living off her fans, pointing out that she has bought a home in California. As for her lack of income, she's earning from the shows she does, and

has in fact been booked for more performances until August.

For our part, we are saddened by this latest controversy in Nora's life, because it shows a grievous lack of respect for her. Many thoughtless people with the memory of a flea and the gratitude of a shark appear to have forgotten Nora's many exceptional contributions to Philippine entertainment.

As a very young singer, she touched millions of listeners. With her memorable big-screen performances, she set such a high standard that some film buffs even want to eventually reward with a National Artist title.

To us, however, her most important contribution was her practically single-

handed feat of neutralizing the colonial mentality in show business. Before she became a big star, most of our entertainment luminaries were *tisoy* types. After Nora made it, more Filipino-looking talents were also able to do well in show business.

Self-esteem

Corollary to this, Nora gave millions of "masa" movie fans somebody they could truly empathize with. She "represented" them proudly and well, and thus added substantially to their self-esteem.

These are major contributions, so people who now try to ridicule Nora and bitchingly delight in her "problems" should go fly a kite—preferably at the Arctic circle.



AUNOR. Helped neutralize colonial mentality in show business.

SINO ANG BABANGGA SA GINEBRA?

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Saturday, March 5, 2005

2005 PBA
FIESTA
CONFERENCE

ASTIG!

ClickTheCity.com

PHILIPPINE BROADCASTING CORPORATION
2ND FLOOR, GMA BUILDING, 1201
P. D. AVENUE, MANILA
KAWING TV AND RADIO STATION
Globe and 1201 P. D. AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR
MANILA

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Entertainment Konek Value Vision	Reach Out Value Vision			Y Spook		Search for the Danao Kids		TV Patrol						Home Along The Airport				Sports Unlimited
NBN																			
ABC 5	Smart TV	The Basketball Show		Soccer Showdown Wish Ko Lang		Laron													
GMA 7	Startak																		
RPN 9																			
IBC 13																			
Solar																			
Nickelodeon																			
MYX																			
ETC																			
Studio 23																			
AXN																			
Star World																			
CNN																			
National Geographic																			
Solar Sports																			
Lifestyle Network																			
HBO																			
Star Movies																			
Cartoon Network																			
ESPN																			
Disney Channel																			
Cinemax																			
Hallmark Channel																			
Discovery Channel																			
MTV Philippines																			
Sports Plus																			
EWTH																			

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Sarap ba ang paghaharap sa Manny Pacquiao?

MILLION DOLLAR MANNY

Exclusive footage from Los Angeles!

Abscarn! Mander! 10:30 n.g.

Dito lang sa

Gifted artists hold exhibit and workshops in Baguio

By Nestor U. Torre

FOR the benefit of Migi's Corner Foundation, "Ciento," an art exhibit by eight prominent visual artists, will be presented by the Baguio Country Club as part of the celebration of its centennial anniversary. The special exhibit opens on March 15 and runs through to March 30.

Participating artists are Araceli Limcaco-Dans, Aladin Antiqueño, Angelo Baldemor, Joven Ignacio, Felipe Mayoya, Azor Pazcoquin, Tito Sanchez and Janice Young.

Unprecedented in art exhibits, the eight artists will offer workshops to the public during the exhibition's run. The workshops are: A demonstration of techniques of oil painting by Azor Pazcoquin. Acrylic painting techniques by Aladin Antiqueño. Watercolor painting by Joven Ignacio and Felipe Mayoya.



SKETCH of mother and child by Janice Young.



"CIENTO" ARTISTS. (Front, from left) Tito Sanchez, Araceli Dans and Philip Mayoya. (Middle) Aladin Antiqueño, Angelo Baldemor, Janice Young and Joven Ignacio. (Back) Azor Pazcoquin.

for to further hone their ability and perception.

It's a happy, well-motivated group, and these exuberantly positive traits show in their paintings. This month, it'll also show in the

workshops they will be conducting, to further invigorate Baguio's artistic climate, and to develop new artists who will come up with more works to beautify and ennoble our lives.

PHOTOS BY DRAKE LOPEZ

Lecture

Portrait sketching by Janice Young. Sculpture by Tito Sanchez and Angelo Baldemor. And a lecture, "Stages of Artistic Growth in Children," a power point lecture by Araceli Limcaco Dans.

These art activities are a good reason for us to be in Baguio from March 15 to 30. The exhibit and workshops will be held in the Baguio Country Club's Training Center. Call 400-8387 or 074 619-2050.

Migi's Corner Foundation was established in 1999 as a non-profit organization whose primary aim is to improve the condition of children in charity hospitals run by the government.

The foundation provides financial assistance for medicines or surgery for children requiring emergency medical care.

Locals and tourists

This exhibit is the second at Baguio Country Club for Cheloy Dans and her group of gifted artists. A couple of years back, we went up to Baguio with the group for its first art exhibition, which transformed the usually sports-oriented country club into a welcoming center for the visual arts, to which many Baguio locals and

tourists gravitated.

That successful group exhibit prompted Cheloy to realize that Baguio needed, not just art exhibitions, but workshops as well, hence the more educational thrust of her group's second major art activity in the country's summer capital.

For our part, our first visit to the Baguio Country Club enabled us to appreciate the high level of talent and selfless passion for painting that characterize Cheloy's art proteges.

Love for visual arts

We were also impressed that they came from different fields of endeavors—architect, physical therapist, teacher, gardener, etc.—but all lines differentiating them were effectively blurred by the love they shared for the visual arts.

With Cheloy setting the pace and providing the selfless and creative example, they worked together to mount the exhibit, went on painting trips as a group, and supported each other's ef-



"SIMOY NG ROSAS" Cheloy Dans' acrylic on canvas.



SCULPTURE by Tito Sanchez.

All-Digital Cinemas



The fun is in the finds

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.

Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00

- ① Son of the Mask
- ② The Aviator
- ③ Lemony Snicket's
- ④ Bunshinsaba

Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00

- ⑤ Constantine
- ⑥ Million Dollar Baby
- ⑦ Hitch

Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516



The fun is in the finds

PANAGBENGA FLOWER FEST AT MARKET! MARKET!

See the winning dance troupe from Baguio live!

Mar. 3, Thursday, 12nn, 3pm, 6pm

Mar. 4, Friday, 1pm, 4pm, 6pm

Mar. 5, Saturday, 1pm, 4pm, 6pm

Activity Center

Events are subject to change without prior notice. Customer Service Hotline: 886-7519


PARK SPRING
 SAN PEDRO, LAGUNA



Now accessible via the new San Pedro Exit!

House & lot package for as low as **P850,000**
or monthly amortization of **P8,000**

PAG-IBIG FINANCING AVAILABLE

A Quality Project Of

CORTE BELLA

The Metro Homes Division of
FILINVEST LAND, INC.
www.filinvestland.com

LTS: R4-98-06-0096

OPEN HOUSE on MARCH 6 | For inquiries, call: 850-1582 • 772-2745

MANILA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

PHILAM LIFE

PRESENTS

OPERAS IN SSSIMO



JONATHAN VELASCO
CONDUCTOR



RACHELLE GENODIAS
SOPRANO

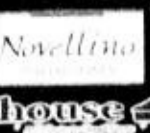


NOLYN CABAHUG
TENOR

ATENEO CHAMBER SINGERS • PHILIPPINE CHAMBER CHOIR

MARCH 11, 2005, 8PM PHILAMLIFE THEATER, UN AVENUE, MANILA











Ticket Prices at: Php 1,000, Php 700, Php 400
For information & Reservation, please call: TICKETWORLD at: 891-9999 or MPO Office at: 705-1728, 722-4274, 722-7137
Parts of the proceeds will go to the: Aid for the Basilan Children Fund Drive of the Philam Foundation

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years



Bush, Berry declared 'worst' film performers of 2004

FROM April Villegas: "Thank you for your article on the best films and performances of 2004. Do you have a favorite award-giving body?"

We don't have one, April. We simply love the movies—whether they're well-made or flawed, as long as they contain scenes that successfully use the medium of motion pictures to illuminate, enlighten or elevate the human condition. If the movie turns out to be impeccably crafted, then that's even better.

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo



BUSH. "Won" for his participation in Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11."



BERRY. Razzied for her performance in Pitof's "Catwoman."

worst supporting actor, respectively, for their "participation" in Michael Moore's Cannes-winning documentary, "Fahrenheit 9/11." (Bush shares a special award—for worst screen couple—with either Condoleezza Rice or his pet goat.)

Brief cameo

Britney Spears' brief cameo in the film, in which she "espouses blind faith in Bush's policies while loudly popping chewing gum," merited the pop star her second Razzie trophy—this time, for worst supporting actress. Spears previously "won" in the worst actress category (for 2000's "Crossroads") when she tied with Razzie favorite Madonna ("Swept Away").

On the other hand, Halle Berry earned the worst actress trophy (for her performance in Pitof's "Catwoman," which was declared worst film), an unlikely bookend companion to her Oscar best actress statuette (for 2001's "Monster's Ball"). Now that's versatility, if you ask us! (The film's French megman was adjudged worst director.)

Silver anniversary

To commemorate its silver anniversary, the group announced its top choices for the past 25 years: Worst drama (John Travolta's "scintillating" debacle, "Battlefield Earth"), worst comedy (the Ben Affleck-Jennifer Lopez fiasco, "Gigli") and worst musical ("From Justin to Kelly," which starred Kelly Clarkson and runner-up Justin Guarini).

Another actor-politician, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, was awarded a special citation: Worst "loser" of the last 25 years, for having amassed the most number of Razzie nominations—eight!—without "winning" a single award.

Unlike other awards ceremonies, though, none of the "winners" showed up to pick up his/her trophy. Bummer!

worlds of film and politics—a telling scenario that is as relevant in this country as it is in the US. Indeed, we live in a world where reality and fantasy constantly intersect!

US President George W. Bush and his defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, were adjudged worst actor and

77th Oscars show less ponderous, relatively low-key

By Nestor U. Torre

EVER since the start of the year, film buffs have been excitedly looking forward to the 77th edition of the US Academy Awards, which finally unreel last Feb. 28, live via satellite over RPN-9. How did it shape up compared to previous awards nights?

Right off the bat, first-time host Chris Rock set a nervous, edgy tone for the evening. Despite the fact that the audience welcomed him with a warm standing ovation, he looked and sounded like a talent who suddenly realized that he was over his depth.

Comic tirade

Happily, he recovered well enough to score with a long comic tirade against US President George Bush's handling of Iraq and the fiscal deficit. Unfortunately, he never matched the high hosting level set by previous masters of ceremony like the ebullient Billy Crystal, Johnny Carson and Bob Hope.

As a whole, this year's show was relatively low-key, and sometimes even glum. On the positive side, its pace was less ponderous, due to the implementation of some welcome speed-up changes, like having all of the nominees in certain categories already up on the stage, so viewers would be spared the tedium of waiting for winners to walk up the aisle to receive their trophies.

However, some changes were ill-advised, like having some awards announced and given in the orchestra section, rather than onstage. One presenter was even made to announce her category from a parterre box in the theater, for goodness' sake!

Counterproductive

While these new staging gambits provided some variety, they also robbed some categories of their importance. In fact, they were so counterproductive that Chris Rock adlibbed that the next trophy could be



KNOWLES. Stole the show by singing three of five tunes nominated for best theme song. — But three was two too much.

handed out in the venue's parking lot! We trust that this failed experiment won't be repeated next year.

All told, the evening was a triumph for black actors, and for Spanish entries: Jamie Foxx and Morgan Freeman won as best actor and best supporting actor, respectively, and Spain's entry, "The Sea Inside," won as best foreign film, even as a Spanish song from "The Motorcycle Diaries" was nominated in the original song category, and performed by Antonio Banderas and Carlos Santana.

Major coup

Speaking of performers, Beyoncé stole the show by singing three of the five tunes nominated for best theme song. That was a major coup, but frankly, we thought Beyoncé bit more than she could chew. She did best with her first number, a song from the French film, "Les Choristes," and everything went downhill after that. Performers should really know when to say, "Enough!"

New Swank, Smith starrers pack...

From page A2-1

On the other hand, Swank deserves her Oscar here more than she did in the showy "Boys Don't Cry." You won't see her flinch in torrents of emotional struggle, but in her eyes, you will sense Maggie's lost soul and the positive spirit that lifts her up from the dregs.

When she cries for the first time, you understand her agony as she pleads for her final chance at dignity. The parting kiss that Frankie tenderly gives her will linger in your mind. As Scrap narrates in his letter to Katie: "When he walked out, I don't think he had anything left"—he gave all his love away.

"Hitch"

D: Andy Tennant
S: Will Smith, Eva Mendes

Eat your heart out, Mel Gibson! You may know what women want, but Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (Will Smith) makes a living out of it. Alas, he even has the statistics to support his methodology: 90 percent of what a person says doesn't come out of his mouth (60 percent of all human communication is non-verbal, and 30 percent is tone). Or, so he says.

Hitch confidently mouths a flurry of preposterous dating "principles" that, courtesy of Smith's unthreatening charm, come off more like laws than theories: "Any man has a chance to sweep any woman off her feet. A beautiful woman doesn't know what she wants—until she sees it. My job is to open her eyes." But, the handsome "date doctor" is really a scarred cynic



SMITH. Elevates unlikely premise beyond sitcom kitsch.

who, as a shy, nerdy college freshman, learned his lessons in love the hard way. For him, relationships "are only for people who are waiting for something better to come along."

He taps into women's sensitive, vulnerable nature to help lovesick clients win the women of their dreams. He is all-knowing and confident when he works on the case of the klutzy, pudgy accountant Albert (Kevin James) and his romantic quarry—the beautiful, rich employer, Allegra (Amber Valletta), who may look intimidating, but is really just a gullible softie who only wants to learn how to whistle at ball games. Albert even quits his job to impress his boss! (Overgrown boys, don't do this at work!)

The dating counselor meets his match when he bumps into beautiful gossip columnist Sara (Eva Mendes), an inveterate workaholic. (Her boss has to remind her: "There's more to life than watching other people live it.") Sparks fly. But, to Hitch's horror, his time-tested, women-winning ways don't seem to work on Sara. In a date "engineered" to impress her, he even accidentally kicks her in the face!

Andy Tennant's romantic comedy entertains. The movie largely benefits from its appealing actors, who inhabit their characters with self-mocking charm and comic relish. Smith and his cohorts elevate the film's unlikely premise beyond predictable mush and sitcom kitsch.

"Hitch" is no cerebral film fare, but it makes for a fun, relaxing night at the movies. The last part of the story, however, unspools into a tired narrative pattern not uncommon among eager-to-please rom-coms—it would have benefited from the service of a script doctor even more than a date specialist!

Elaborate flourishes in Seal's 'Best' collection

By Noelani Torre

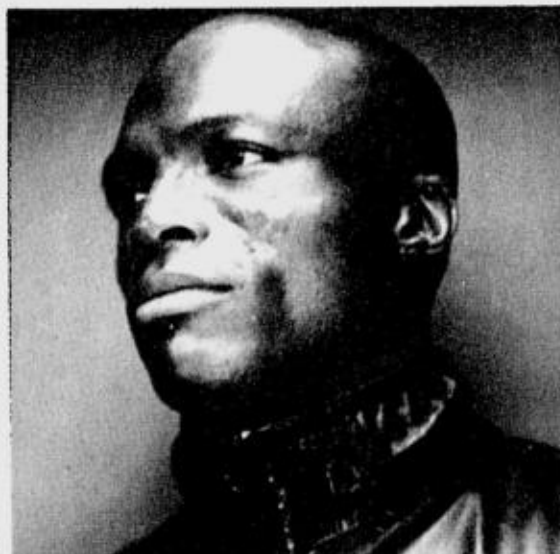
(Conclusion)

IN Seal's "Best: 1991-2004" collection, there are tracks that aren't Trevor Horn-produced: The remixed version of "My Vision," featuring Jakatta, and two of the covers—the Steve Miller Band's "Fly Like an Eagle" and, from the soundtrack of "50 First Dates," Echo and the Bunnymen's "Lips Like Sugar," featuring reggae star Mikey Dread.

In those tracks, the singer shows that he can be great even when cut off from Horn's leading strings, and that he's an adept interpreter. His cover of the Burt Bacharach classic, "Walk on By" is refreshing, and the song itself is the perfect vehicle for that honey-and-grit voice.

All-acoustic disc

The best part of "Best," however, is its second, all-acoustic disc. These



SEAL. His acoustic versions sound better than the originals.

pared down versions sound better than the originals, and Horn once again proves himself a star producer

with the simple arrangements that manage to have quite a few surprising add-ons here and there (marimbas, handclaps, wooden boxes, household items, etc.), while showcasing Seal's evocative qualities to perfection.

"Best: 1991-2004" is a winner on all counts, from the track choices to their sequencing. Seal may not have an abundance of material, but what he's got is definitely more impressive than your usual one-album-a-year pop star's more-fluff-than-substance output.

Rufa Mae Quinto dreams of finishing school

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

RUFA Mae Quinto took the bold route when she acted in her film debut, "Gloria, Gloria Lavandera." She did the requisite sexy poses and bedroom scenes, but she wanted to set herself apart from other sex nymphs. So, she added comedy to her act. She played the dumb blonde to the hilt and became a hit in "Booba."

Long shoot

For Rufa, comedy is easier to do than drama. Dramatic scenes drain her emotionally, especially after a long shoot.

She admits that she's not someone who will win Trivial Pursuit, but she has a clear sense of self-acceptance. "I concentrate on my assets. I have a natural

flair for comedy," Rufa grins.

As a young girl, she was a tomboy who enjoyed street games. She got her first kiss when she was 14. "Muntik ko nang maging boyfriend yung nag-kiss sa akin. Crush ko siya, but I felt guilty. Feeling ko, ang landi-landi ko," she confesses.

Rufa adds that her family is very conservative. She says, "Kaya ako nag-comedy kasi kapag nagtuluy-tuloy ang pagiging sexy star ko, baka tiris-tirsin nila ako. I used to appear in action movies. I would jump off bridges, nakipag-barilan din ako!"

Lawyer

She wanted to become a lawyer. "I wanted to wear suits. Pormal na pormal. Then, when I got older, I thought it'd be great to become a stewardess. I never ex-

pected na ito ang mararating ko, walang ka-pormal-pormal! But, I'm happy."

Goals

What are her goals? "I have many plans in life. I want to go back to school, pero sabi nila, strike while the iron is hot. Hindi naman siguro nakakahiya mag-college kahit may edad ka na. But, I don't want to go back to school just for kicks. I want to take the time to learn. Ayokong magsayang ng pera at pagod. I want to enjoy everything I do. But, I firmly intend to finish school! I always believed in sipag at tiyaga."

QUINTO. Clear sense of self-acceptance.



SM City Cebu, Cinema 1 & 5
March 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 2005

Furor over 'Passion's' Oscar snub

By Nestor U. Torre

NOT a few film buffs have bent my ear with complaints about the exclusion of Mel Gibson and his "The Passion of the Christ" from the 2004 Oscar derby. Why, they wanted to know, was the popular and critically-acclaimed film left out in the cold?

Numerous speculations abound: First, since Hollywood is a secular place, religious films can't be expected to prosper in it.

But, is this, in fact, the case? Looking back at the Oscars through the years, we find that,

in 1943, "The Song of Bernadette" was nominated for best picture ("Casablanca" won).

Destitute parish

Even more decisively, the 1944 winner was another religious film, "Going My Way." The movie was about a young priest (Bing Crosby) on his first assignment in a destitute parish.

Then, in 1945, its sequel, "The Bells of St. Mary's," was nominated for best picture ("The Lost Weekend" won).

In 1951, "Quo Vadis" was a best picture nominee (the winner was "An American in Paris"). In 1953, "The Robe" was nominated ("From Here to Eternity" won). In 1956, "The Ten Commandments" was a nominee.

In 1959, "Ben-Hur" was voted best picture. "A Man for All Sea-

sons" is not "formally" a religious movie, but it deals with spiritual issues, and it won the best picture Oscar in 1966.

Conclusion: The US Academy Awards aren't intrinsically anti-religious. Yes, it could be true that Hollywood has become more secular since the '70s, but the perceived bias against spiritual productions is still a question of perception.

Another speculative gambit goes this way: Hollywood is "controlled" by Jews, and they didn't welcome Gibson's film because they feared that it would cast them in a bad light. It looks like there's more truth to this speculation—but again, it's dicey to state it as "gospel" truth.

But, some religious observers add grist to the mill by pointing out that, even after "Passion" ended up

as 2004's biggest hit, very few religious productions are being made to follow up on its success.

To these observers, this affirms the view that most producers in Hollywood don't want to encourage the making of more spiritual films, even if there are huge profits to be had.

Speculations

Other speculations: Gibson was "too pushy" when he was trying to get financing for his film (he ended up bankrolling it himself, with \$30 million of his own money), and "too proud" when his movie became a big hit. This turned Academy members off (the "envy factor" cannot be discounted here), so they didn't vote for "Passion."

And Gibson was perceived by other movie people to be "hypo-

critical," because he had led a wild life before his religious epiphany.

Finally, he was seen to be "too in-your-face pious," and accused of looking down on other, less spiritual film people. All of these merited or baseless charges led to the monumental snub of "Passion" at the Oscars. What do you think?

As far as Gibson is concerned, however, all this furor is no big deal. His movie has won exceptional acclaim, with or without the Oscars, and has grossed almost a billion dollars to date!

Most tellingly, Gibson has been donating most of his production's huge profits to deserving charities all over the world. More than any other proof, this shows that his heart is in the right place. Who's "hypocritical" now?



GIBSON. His movie has won exceptional acclaim—with or without the Academy Awards.

Ellen Ongkiko-Marfil megs digital production

By Edgardo M. Llamera

INDEPENDENT filmmakers dare to explore things that matter. They have a vision and a point of view.

Take Ellen Ongkiko-Marfil. She is the latest to join the ranks of women filmmakers in the country. Not that she is a complete neophyte.

On the contrary, she has had extensive training in film, theater and TV broadcasting. She started out in Peta, where she became a resident television director. She attended seminars in Paris and London, and worked with film masters: on Lino Brocka's "Orapronobis," Ishmael Bernal's "Himala," Mike de Leon's "Sister Stella L." and Chito Roño's "Eskapo."

Docu-drama

Taking time out from her work at GMA-7, she directed "Walang Bakas," a docu-drama on Filipino *desaparecidos*, which was named best drama by the Catholic Mass Media Awards in 2004, and was a runner-up at the Asian Television Awards.

Ellen's first full-length digital movie is the critically acclaimed "Angels" for Star Cinema, which tackles the true-to-life story of how a blind couple struggles to raise a family amidst an uncaring society.

"Mga Pusang Gala" (Stray Cats) is Ellen's maiden venture into digital



DAVAO AND ADLAWAN. Lead actors in "Mga Pusang Gala."

production, together with husband Martin Marfil. Ellen says that in "Gala," majority of the cast are on equity-sharing, which means Ellen pays them partial cash and the rest becomes their investment in the project.

How did she talk her cast and staff into it? "There are many factors," Ellen explains. "I tapped people whom I have worked with in the past, who have a healthy respect for one another, and who believe in the material."

Laboratory play

"Mga Pusang Gala" began as a laboratory play, "Libog sa Kabilugan ng Buwan" by Jun Lana. Even as she found Lana's work witty (it won a Palanca), she was ambivalent when it was mounted onstage. "Tawa ako

nang tawa. But wait, you're insulting me as a woman!" she says.

Years later, the director and the playwright sat down and discussed how the play could be adapted for the screen. Next, Ellen invited Rodry Vera to join the team. She did not want to do a black comedy, so Vera came up with his own analysis of human relationships—that some people fall in love with their own fantasies.

Creative team

The creative team thus came up with a parody on adult romantic relationships, replete with naughty erotic scenes and satiric fantasies. "Pusang Gala" tells the story of parallel love lives: A middle-aged woman, a lady advertising practitioner and her friend and duplex *kasera*, a gay romance novelist.

Both woman and gay continue to pine and wait for their respective lovers to give them their commitment, but none is forthcoming. So, they decide to take matters into their hands.

"Mga Pusang Gala" is topbilled by Ricky Davao and Irma Adlawan. Playing their lovers are Reggie Curley and Lauren Novero. It will be the closing film in the UP Film Institute's 15th International Women's Film Festival on Friday, March 11, 6:30 p.m. at Cine Adarna, UP Diliman.

Ditsi...

From page A2-2

time in Carolino's mind, giving her more time to inject insights into the production.

Levels

The film works on several levels. On one hand, it tells the experiences and feelings of children living in a pugnacious environment. On the other hand, it delivers a strong message about parenting.

A particularly moving scene shows the parents of one of the jailed boys fighting and venting out their anger and guilt toward each other.

The drunken mother blames her husband for beating their child, while the father says he was only teaching the kid how to behave.

Sad state

On a macro level, "Bunso" says something about the sad state of our jails, the depravities that take place in them, and the chronic ills of society.

A disturbing thought that rankled in our mind while watching the film was: Given the vicious cycle of poverty and the government's neglect of the marginalized, is there really any future left for our poor and helpless children?

"Bunso" is an outstanding documentary because of the message it clearly imparts—that children are children who shouldn't be allowed to go through hell by undergoing the same kind of punishment given to adults.

MMTA MOVIE GUIDE NOW SHOWING

SHANGHAI CINEPLEX 6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City Telephone: 833.2227 / 833.7831 loc. 171	FILINVEST CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72	EASTWOOD CINEMAS (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 887.4963 or 72
1.00PM HITCH PG13	1.00PM LEMONY SNICKETS	1.00PM LEMONY SNICKETS
2.00PM LEMONY SNICKETS GP	2.00PM HITCH	2.00PM HITCH
3.00PM MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13	3.00PM CONSTANTINE	3.00PM MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4.00PM CONSTANTINE PG13	4.00PM RAY	4.00PM CONSTANTINE
PREMIERE	5.00PM MILLION DOLLAR BABY	
00PM AVIATOR PG13	6.00PM THE AVIATOR	
	7.00PM HITCH	
	8.00PM LET THE LOVE BEGIN	
	9.00PM BUNSHINSABA	
	10.00PM MASK 2 SON OF THE MASK	
CINEMA 2000		
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati Waltermart Center, Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pin del Pilar, Makati City Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216	Argenta Center CINEMA GUIDE For Inquiries Pils Call TICKETNET 911-5555	Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1. HITCH	GATEWAY CINEPLEX 10 Level 4, Gateway Mall The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines! ALL THEATERS IN DOLBY EX ULTRA SOUND FULL STADIUM SEATING AND EXCLUSIVE VISTA COMPUTER TICKET SYSTEM GUARANTEED SEATS, NO STANDING ROOM	1. INFECTION
2. SOON TO OPEN	1. HITCH	2. LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3. SOON TO OPEN	2. MILLION DOLLAR BABY	3. LEMONY SNICKETS
4. SON OF THE MASK	3. BUNSHINSABA	4. CONSTANTINE
	4. SON OF THE MASK	
SUPER CINERAMA Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto tel 733.4238	5. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771
1. RESERVED	ALI MALL CINEMAS	1. SHALL WE DANCE
2. RESERVED	1. MILLION DOLLAR BABY	2. LET THE LOVE BEGIN
3. RESERVED	2. CONSTANTINE	3. FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
4. RESERVED	3. HITCH	
5. RESERVED	4. BUNSHINSABA	Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
	5. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	1. LET THE LOVE BEGIN
Masagana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274	Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856	2. MAD HOUSE
1. MASK 2 SON OF THE MASK	1. SIDEWAY	3. ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2. CONSTANTINE	2. SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION	4. MEET THE FOCKERS
3. SAKSI DRIVER	3. NIGHT JOB	
	4. NIGHT JOB	Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3327
st rmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986	Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470	1. PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
1. RESERVED	1. SOON TO OPEN	2. MALAGKIT
2. RESERVED	Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03	3. SAKSI DRIVER
3. OUIJA BOARD	1. HITCH	4. KING RAT
4. MALAGKIT	2. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276
5. MALAGKIT	3. LEMONY	1. PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
METROPOLIS www.clickthecity.com.ph	4. INFECTION	2. MALAGKIT
1. OUIJA BOARD	Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121	3. SAKSI DRIVER
2. MALAGKIT	1. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	4. KING RAT
3. CONSTANTINE	2. LEMONY SNICKETS	Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
4. SON OF THE MASK	3. HITCH	1. CONSTANTINE
5. MILLION DOLLAR BABY	4. CONSTANTINE	2. LEMONY SNICKETS
st rmall Movies www.clickthecity.com.ph (Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007	Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489	3. INFECTION
1. SCHOOL OF SEDUCTION	1. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	4. SHE WALK BY NIGHT
2. RESERVED	2. FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	5. LET THE LOVE BEGIN
	3. SHALL WE DANCE	Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
	4. ELEKTRA	1. BABY GENIUSES - 2
		2. LET THE LOVE BEGIN
Centre Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790	3. SIDEWAY
1. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	1. LET THE LOVE BEGIN	4. HELLWOLF
2. FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX	2. ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13	Berma Cinema (Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
	3. SIDEWAY	1. SAKSI DRIVER
	4. HELLWOLF	2. ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Argenta Center

Entertainment Guide

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10
LEVEL 4 GATEWAY MALL
The First and Only Real Cineplex in the Philippines
ONLY P99 ADMISSION • P120 RESERVED SEATS

OSCAR'S BEST FILM FESTIVAL

HITCH 12:55 / 3:40 / 6:25 / 9:10	CONSTANTINE 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30
MILLION DOLLAR BABY 12:40 / 3:30 / 6:25 / 9:10	THE AVIATOR 12:00 / 3:20 / 6:40 / 10:00
OUIJA BOARD-BUNSHINSABA 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 1:00 / 3:50 / 6:40 / 9:30
SON OF THE MASK 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	RAY - LIFE STORY OF RAY CHARLES 4:05 / 9:25
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	SIDEWAYS 1:30 / 6:50

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY 11:50 / 2:40 / 5:30 / 8:20	4 OUIJA BOARD-BUNSHINSABA 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25
2 CONSTANTINE 11:20 / 1:35 / 3:50 / 6:05 / 8:20	5 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:00 / 2:05 / 4:10 / 6:15 / 8:20
3 HITCH 12:05 / 2:50 / 5:35 / 8:20	

FEATURES & DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

ARANETA COLISEUM SHOWS

NORAH JONES IN CONCERT March 12, Saturday	RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE! April 16, Saturday
---	--

CENTER EVENTS

BINIBINIS AT ARANETA CENTER	Press Presentation, March 8, Tuesday, 11am, Gateway Mall Parade of Beauties, March 13, Sunday, 3pm Grand Coronation Night, March 19 Saturday, 7pm, Araneta Coliseum
COOL JAZZ COOL CLASSICS	Free Jazz performance by East Of The City band every Fridays & Saturdays at the Coliseum Circle

NOW OPEN

Italianni's, Cafe Havana, Cafe Adriatico	Ground Floor / Cibo Level 2, Gateway Mall
Super Bowl Of China & Food Express	Level 3, Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Burns, Hoffman topbill 'Confidence'

EDWARD Burns pulls the rug from under us with his latest starrer, the compelling thriller, "Confidence." Burns plays Jake Vig, a sharp and accomplished con man. With his equally adept accomplices (who include "Sideways" Paul Giamatti), he cons an accountant out of thousands of dollars.

Trouble is, it turns out that the accountant works for an eccentric crime lord (Dustin Hoffman). When the accountant turns up dead, Vig knows it's payback time.

To repay the crime lord, he offers to pull off the biggest con in his career. The mark: A banker with strong links to organized crime. Aside from the dangers involved, Vig has to contend with an old nemesis, an FBI agent (Andy Garcia), who's been on his trail for a long time.

"Confidence" also stars Rachel Weisz as an accomplished blonde pickpocket. —What a great lineup of gifted actors!

Movies on TV

On HBO, March 5 at 9 p.m., "Identity." 10:30 p.m., "LOTR: The Return of the King." March 6 at 11:10 p.m., "My House in Umbria."

On Cinemax, March 5 at 6:55 p.m., "The Unforgiven." 9 p.m., "The Postman." March 6 at 9 p.m., "The Bourne Identity." 2:15 a.m., "Funny Girl."

All Roads filmfest

National Geographic is calling for entries to its All Roads Film Festival, to be held from Sept. 22 to 25 at the Egyptian Theater in Los Angeles, and Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at NG headquarters in Washington, DC.

The festival will showcase the exciting works of indigenous and under-represented minority filmmakers from around the globe. Contact All Roads Film Project, National Geographic, 1145 17th st. NW, Suite M2106, Washington DC, 20036 (or 1-202-



STALLONE Hosts AXN's boxing reality-TV show.



BURNS AND HOFFMAN Portray con man and crime lord, respectively.

4TH 'ROMANTIC COMEDY' DAY!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

"HITCH is the Comedy of the Year"

Highly Entertaining and Laugh-Out-Loud Funny!

Will Smith is **HITCH**

Will Smith gives another outstanding performance.

The ideal date movie!

Distributed by **COLUMBIA PICTURES**

SIMULTANEOUS SHOWING U.S. AND PHILIPPINES - MARCH 9

BRUCE WILLIS

HOSTAGE

THE SITUATION IS OUT OF CONTROL

857-7660; allroads@ngs.org).

The filmfest is part of NG's All Roads Film Project, which provides grants to and a forum for indigenous and under-represented filmmakers and photographers.

'The Contender'

Premiering on AXN at 10:30 a.m. on March 8, "The Contender," hosted by Sylvester Stallone, offers a chance for 16 aspiring boxers to become professional prizefighters, and to win a million dollars in the process.

Bringing together the best fighters in a USA-wide search, "The Contender" offers intense training to turn wannabes into prizefighters.

At the end of each week, the boxers will battle it out in a series of bouts that will determine if they have what it takes to move one step closer to victory.

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution for parents bringing their kids.

"ORIGINAL ACTION-PACKED AND MIND-BLOWING"

KEANU REEVES

CONSTANTINE

IT'S A SMART RIDE THERE'S BOTTLENECK AND MIND CANDY IN THIS CLEVERLY BERSERK SPAWN OF BLADE RUNNER

AN AMAZINGLY ORIGINAL FEARFUL RIDE

MTRCB PG ALL AGES ADMITTED

2ND WEEK

THIS WEEK'S BOXOFFICE CHAMPION "BABY" FEVER HITS MANILA

Please watch my movie

SON OF THE MASK

MTRCB RATING G FOR GENERAL AUDIENCE

2ND WEEK!

JIM CARREY

UNFORTUNATE EVENTS

WE'RE VERY CONCERNED

www.UnfortunateEventsMovie.com

Salvo Entertainment Corporation

They Walk. They Talk. They Kill.

THE DOLL MASTER

KOREA'S ALL-TIME BOX OFFICE HORROR CHAMP

AVAILABLE AT THE FF. OUTLETS: ASTROVISION • VIDEO CITY • ASTROPLUS • SM RECORD BAR • ODYSSEY • NATIONAL BOOKSTORE • TOWER • LANDMARK • O MUSIC • MUSIC ONE • SHOPWISE • EVER DEPARTMENT STORE • VVI SHANGRI-LA KIOSK • RADIO CITY and other VIVA VIDEO OUTLETS

Visit us at: www.vivavideoinc.com

VIVA VIDEO INC.

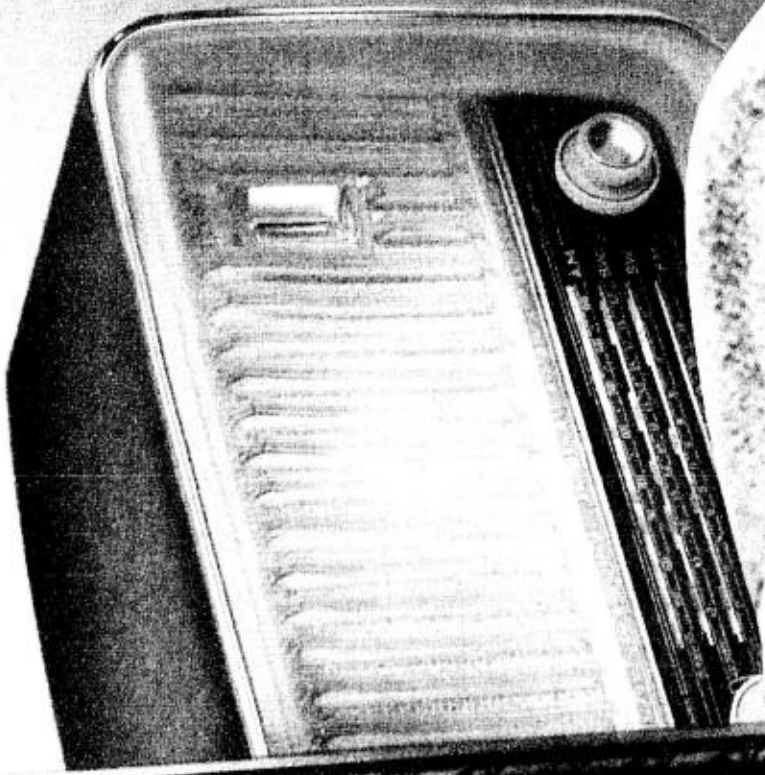
NOW AVAILABLE ON ORIGINAL VIDEO!

VCD-P275 DVD-P450

SMART

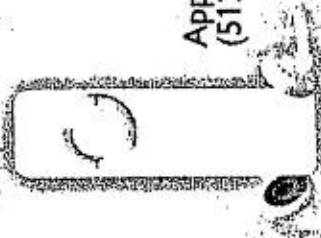


Relive the golden sound of Frank Sinatra,
Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis, Jr.
...with Westlife.



Get a chance to win a Peugeot 206 CC sports car
when you download Westlife "Allow Us To
Be Frank" tones.

WEEKLY PRIZE:



Apple iPod Shuffle
(512MB)

GRAND PRIZE:



Peugeot 206 CC sports car

Prize ends June 30, 2005.
See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 041, Series of 2005.

TONES

For monotonies, text: **tone** <keyword> to 209.
For polytones, text: **poly** <keyword> to 209.

SONGS

- Smile.....WL1
- Ain't That A Kick In The Head.....WL2
- The Way You Look Tonight.....WL3
- Fly Me To The Moon.....WL4
- When I Fall In Love.....WL5
- I Left My Heart In San Francisco.....WL6
- Let There Be Love.....WL7
- Summer Wind.....WL8
- Clementine.....WL9
- Come Fly With Me.....WL10

KEYWORD

- WL1
- WL2
- WL3
- WL4
- WL5
- WL6
- WL7
- WL8
- WL9
- WL10

Text WESTLIFE to 209.



ALLOW US TO BE FRANK

Westlife's new album out now on
CDs & cassettes exclusively distributed by
BMG Records (Philippines), Inc.

Powered by:



Distributed by:



AppleCenter



ENJOY VIVID MULTIMEDIA FEATURES ON YOUR CELPHONE.
SET-UP SMART GPRS AND MMS.

To set GPRS Settings on your phone, text SET GPRS <phone model> to 211.
Ex. SET GPRS <N6600>. To activate GPRS on your phone, text GPRS ON to 333.
To set MMS Settings on your phone, text SET MMS <phone model> to 211.
Ex. SET MMS <N6600>. To activate MMS on your phone, text MMS ON to 333.

For SMART Gold, SMART Buddy, Addict Mobile, and Talk 'N' Text members: Text: 1. P30.00 each. Please message wallpaper and logo cost P15.00 each. All SMS cost P2.00. Info: All info on all Addict Mobile & P10.00. Addict Mobile & P5.00. For questions, comments, or general info, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111. *888 using your SMART phone. The standard rate for MMS is P10.00 per message. For more information, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SATURDAY Special

Travolta, Thurman reunite in 'Be Cool'

LOS ANGELES—They went on one of the coolest movie dates ever, at least until she overdosed and he rammed an adrenaline needle into her to jumpstart her heart.

Eleven years after "Pulp Fiction," John Travolta and Uma Thurman are back on the dance floor in "Be Cool," a follow-up to Travolta's 1995 crime caper, "Get Shorty."

Travolta returns as super-smooth loan-shark-turned-producer Chili Palmer, this time abandoning the fickle movie industry to try his hand in the music business.

Thurman plays Edie, owner of a small record label where Chili brings his latest discovery, a singer-songwriter with the voice of an angel and the face of a cover-girl pop diva.

Model citizen

While Chili's not the wholly respectable type, and Edie's record company has its shadier sides, the two are model citizens compared to addict and hit man Vincent and coke-head Mia, whom Travolta and Thurman played in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction."

Vincent and Mia's evening out progressed from cozy dinner at a kitschy restaurant, to an off-kilter take on "The Twist" in a dance contest, to Mia's misstep in snorting Vincent's heroin, believing it was cocaine.

A more conventional romance develops between Chili and Edie, who do share some time on the dance floor, spinning to the Black Eyed Peas' cover of a 1960s tune by Brazilian songwriter Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Travolta, 51, and Thurman, 34, sat down together with The Associated Press to discuss the new film and reminisce about old times.

What was it about Vincent and Mia that made them work so well together?

Travolta: Certainly, Quentin's imagination.

Thurman: She is a speed freak and he is a junkie, so there's no conflict. Nobody's trying to take up anybody else's space.

Characters

Travolta: Those characters were hellbent for death, while these characters in "Be Cool" are hellbent for life. These guys want to survive.

The difference is, we were both higher than a kite during the whole film in "Pulp Fiction."

Fil-Am director wins plaudits

By Nestor U. Torre

GREAT theater news from Jorge Ortolan in the United States: Jorge, the executive director of the acclaimed Ma-Yi Theater Company in New York City, excitedly reports that Ching Valdes-Aran is currently directing Penumbra Theater's production of S. N. Murakoshi's play, "Slippery When Wet," in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ching is a Fil-Am theater stalwart who has won acting awards, and is now being similarly praised for her work as director.

"Slippery When Wet" is described by Minneapolis reviewer Elizabeth Weir as a "sometimes delicate, sometimes passionate and often explosive dance of relationship-negotiation between an Asian-American woman and an African-American man."

Intense attraction

"The play looks at an intense attraction between two accomplished young people: Helen (Katrina Toshiko) is a third-generation Japanese-American and an aspiring actor and writer, and Rakim (Desean Terry) is a successful black filmmaker."

"The attraction between them feels both electric and tender. The relationship hums with potential for consummation, but the characters' spoken asides to the audience reveal the fuse-breakers that threaten their togetherness."

What does Weir have to say about Valdes-Aran's work? A lot of good things: "Under the superb direction and choreography of award-winning Ching Valdes-Aran, the production is charged with sensuality, old taboos and mesmerizing beauty."

Racial prejudices

"The set, designed by Valdes-Aran and Jason Allyn Schwerin, is a dramatic white diamond of flooring that overlays the stage and is reflected in the tilted mirror that forms the backdrop. The mirror serves to reflect and reinforce the background of racial prejudices that the two characters lug around them. (We tend to think of prejudice being the sole province of white Americans, but Murakoshi's play shatters that myth.)"

"Seared by the force of frustrated love, the two characters fall into Valdes-Aran's choreography of magnetic exorcism, as

FIL-AM/A3-2

and when we went up to dance, we were doing novelty and gimmick dances from the '60s. Here, we're doing something more traditional.

Did you have instant chemistry?

Thurman: I wouldn't even have thought of sitting with John when we met. I was a gnarly 23-year-old, I wouldn't have known that we had screen chemistry.

Travolta: I don't think it's something you can predict. It's innate.

Thurman: A lot of times, people have intense chemistry in life—like people who are infatuated with each other and become lovers, and they end up not having screen chemistry at all. Couples often are very boring

to watch.

Were you able to fall right back into your old chemistry when you started "Be Cool"?

Travolta: I have such innate affinity for Uma. I get happy when I'm around her. I can't wait to talk to her and catch up. I'm comfortable.

Place of trust

Thurman: That's absolutely true. What was lovely about getting to step into this movie was to start from a place of trust and a sense of time. Someone who knew you 10 years ago. There's something about it that I find very touching, and it reaffirms life for me.



THURMAN AND TRAVOLTA. Back on the dance floor in "Get Shorty" sequel.

For every stage of brain and visual development...

Give your child the Eye-Q Advantage!



Nutrition System

Better Vision. Better Brain. Better Learning.

Research shows that 80% of what a young brain learns is acquired through vision. Cognitive experts say that there's actually more to vision than just the ability to see.

Through visual analysis skills, a child learns to identify and organize the objects he sees around him. Visual integration skills, on the other hand, are necessary for a child's reading and comprehension abilities and crucial for mobility. These are basic capabilities he will need to prepare him for higher learning.

The Eye-Q Nutrition System was developed to meet the advancing needs of brain through vision. Its combination of nutrients help support the proper brain and visual development every child needs for better learning.

Ask your doctor about the Eye-Q Nutrition System.

Or call the Eye-Q Hotline Numbers:

6890545 and 1-800-10-888-EYE-Q

8 am - 5 pm Monday - Friday

Or e-mail us at eye-q.ph@abbott.com

6 to 12 months
Vision is crucial as a child learns to identify the objects he sees.



1 year and up
Vision is critical as a child learns to speak and be mobile.



3 to 7 years old
A preschooler's reading and comprehension abilities rely on vision.



Breastmilk is the best for babies up to 2 years

The use of milk supplements must only be upon the advice of a health professional. The preparation of milk supplements may be dangerous to your child's health.

Per ED 51 CA No. 028-2005
02/17/05



Eastwood's long road to Hollywood respect

HOLLYWOOD—Clint Eastwood's best director Oscar for "Million Dollar Baby" last Sunday marks the end of a decades-long struggle to be recognized as a serious filmmaker rather than merely an iconic tough guy.

At 74, snagging his second Academy Award for directing makes him the oldest winner of the coveted prize and confirms him as one of Hollywood's most talented filmmakers.

Still, he declared himself "just a kid" with plenty more to achieve in the movie industry.

Steely-eyed roles

After half a century in Hollywood, Eastwood is best known around the world for his steely-eyed roles in films such as "Dirty Harry" and as the Man with No Name in Sergio Leone's 1960s "spaghetti westerns."

"People keep harking back to 'Dirty Harry,' but that was 33 years ago, and I've changed," Eastwood, who has directed 25 movies and produced 20, complained.

He made his mark as a serious filmmaker in 1993, when he won the best director Oscar for "Unforgiven," which was also named best picture.



EASTWOOD. From iconic tough guy to serious filmmaker.

REUTERS

That was the first time that Eastwood—whose action films were dismissed as overly macho and bloodthirsty, despite their frequently offbeat tones—had been considered for a major

award. Last year, his thriller, "Mystic River," about three old friends reunited by the murder of a child, garnered six Oscar nominations—including best picture and

best director—and won two prizes, but Eastwood himself went home empty-handed.

And even after four previous Oscar nods for directing and the huge success of "Unforgiven" and "Mystic River," Eastwood battled to win funding for "Million Dollar Baby," which was nominated for seven Oscars and won four—best director, best picture, best actress for Hilary Swank and best supporting actor for Morgan Freeman.

Risk

Only after knocking on door after door did Eastwood persuade Warner Brothers to put up half the money for the film, splitting the risk equally with production company Lakeshore Entertainment.

"It was turned down by a lot of people," Eastwood told The New York Times. "I wasn't coming in with a .44 Magnum and doing the old genre thing. In my old age, I'm looking for things that interest me a little more."

Eastwood's win for "Million Dollar Baby," the story of a determined female boxer played by Swank, should at last seal his reputation as a heavyweight director.

AFP

More fusion than collision in Jay-Z, Linkin Park collaboration

By Noelani Torre

"COLLISION Course," Jay-Z and Linkin Park's mash-up album, is misleading. What goes on here is more fusion than collision, as LP rapper Mike Shinoda himself attests to when he explains their playlist and song-pairing choices:

"We wanted to pick the ones that people know," he says. "We wanted tracks that are similar enough that they sound good together like 'Big Pimpin'—we put it with 'Paper Cut' because it has almost exactly the same tempo and pattern. They're really similar."

Distinctive marks

Six rap-metal tracks are the result of this megastar collaboration, all of which bear the distinctive marks of both parties.

A feature of the "MTV Ultimate Mash-Ups" show—the album's complete title is "MTV Ultimate Mash-Ups Presents Jay-Z Linkin Park Collision Course"—the package includes a VCD featuring a documentary of the recording process, and live performances of all six songs from a July 2004 concert.

The question, however, is do these mash-ups actually work? The answer is: They do—but only to a certain extent.

At first listen, the cobbled-together tracks sound pretty good—the transitions are smooth, the beats complementary, and the production is as sparkly as Jay-Z's jewelry. After you give the whole album second and third spins, however, the flaws start to emerge.

The most fundamental of these is the empty feel of this entire effort. The mash-ups don't have the backbone and grit of their originals.

Of course, they sound good on the surface—after all, both Jay-Z and Linkin Park are the top dogs in their respective genres—but they also sound artificial. In fact, "Collision Course" smells suspiciously like the product of yet another clever marketing strategy.

Not that we have anything



JAY-Z. Mash-up tracks don't have the backbone and grit of the originals.

against marketing strategies, inasmuch as they're necessary in business. But, if you shell out some big bucks, you'd hope that it's worth all that money. It's hard to justify charging so much for merely six songs—clocking to around 20 minutes—that don't really give the listener anything new.

Choices

The choices and pairings sound interesting on paper, but more often than not, you'll realize that the artists ought to have been left well enough alone. Take the case of the "Points of Authority/ 99 Problems /One Step Closer" mash-up. Jay-Z's "99 Problems" is a good rock-rap song. It didn't—and doesn't—need the Linkin Park touch. It's pointless. Perfectly decent songs are mangled in the process.

The whole point of a mash-up as we understand it is to bring together two songs from totally different genres. The problem is that, though Jay-Z and LP belong to different genres, the latter already incorporates rap in its music ("Hybrid Theory," remember?). Unfortunately, LP doesn't do rap as well as Jay-Z—a fact that is constantly underscored throughout the album.

What's ironic is that there's this unlicensed Jay-Z and the Beatles mash-up album by DJ Danger Mouse that's been circulating since last year, and it's got more admirers than "Collision Course" will ever have.

All about space

AVAILABILITY of space is a luxury in the world of high-rise living. Condominium residents are moving southward in search of a stress-free environment that will bring them comfort and peace of mind.

A new residential development with spacious and affordable units has recently been unveiled: The Mondrian Residences. This is in line with the design principles of Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, who made his



PERIQUET AND MONSERRAT. Team up for the Mondrian Residences.

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

mark in modern art by introducing Neoplasticism.

Luis Monserrat, president of AMM Arden Property Development Corp., announces that The Mondrian is all about space. It is a 22-storey building with nine units or less per floor.

Key figure

Kudos go to architect Tina Periquet, the key figure in creating living spaces that provide ample room for function, ingenuity and aesthetics.

The Mondrian Residences are located at the Filinvest Corporate City.

Call 807-0111 or drop by the Mondrian Residences in Ayala Alabang.

Email mandynavasero@photo-pro.com.ph

Special summer courses at APFI

By Nestor U. Torre

FROM Marilou Diaz-Abaya comes the good news that the Asia Pacific Film Institute is offering some special courses this summer. First to be launched is a Producer's Course, to be taught by AIM's Jay Bernardo and Cecille Manikan, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., from April 11 to 15.

This is an important course, because the Filipino movie industry needs new producers. Some businessmen want to get into film production but don't know how. The APFI's Producer's Course will help put these two needs together, and everyone will benefit.

Key topics

The course clarifies key topics like business planning for film (title, genre, director, writer, producer, staff, cast, budget, timetable, script, playdate and marketing); understanding the legal processes; knowing the basics of the MTRCB, Film Development Council of the Philippines, tax rebates, distribution, bookkeeping and taxes; utilizing marketing techniques and media; post-theatrical distribution (TV, cable and video rights), and international markets.

Next to open is Acting in Mo-

tion Pictures for Adults, to be taught by acclaimed thespian Johnny Delgado. Running from April 19 to May 14 every Tuesday and Thursday, 1 to 7 p.m., the course abides by the Eric Morris System of Work for Actors.

The course intends to teach truth in acting, understanding the actor's Being, which is himself; understanding the actor's Instrument, which is his body and emotions; exercises to help the actor fine-tune his Instrument; the three major categories of Craft-Obligation, Choice and Choice Approach; the seven major obligations; Sense Memory, and other Choice Approaches.

Craft of choice

The Eric Morris' system is the craft of choice because it is most effective for film and television. (In time, this workshop will be followed by other courses on Characterization and Character-Related Choice Approaches, and on Scenes and Scene Studies).

Aside from this course for adults, there will be an Acting Workshop for Children, from April 25 to 29 and May 2 to 6, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. Delgado will be employing and applying exercises that mostly take the form of games.



DELGADO. Teaches the Eric Morris system in acting workshops.

The workshop will give the students grounding in focus, concentration, listening, give-and-take in scenes, believing and working with characters, and improvisation.

Delgado believes that improvisation is magical in that it removes what is traditional

and will introduce young actors to more multi-level and dimensional approaches in scenes, even without prepared scripts.

We're particularly interested in another summer course, Music Scoring for Motion Pictures, which will be taught by the much-awarded Nonong Buenacama, from April 18 to May 20.

Most glaring

We regard this as an important workshop because we feel that overscoring is one of the most glaring problems of local film productions.

The course will teach students how to compose music for film and television, understand the nuances of movie genres (drama, comedy, suspense, horror and action), and allow music to become part of the film narrative.

Finally, Cris Silva will teach a Junior Video Production course from May 9 to 27. Students aged 10 to 16 will receive basic instruction in visual storytelling through digital video. The course seeks to deepen young people's appreciation for film and video, and sharpen their talents and sensibilities.

Interested? Call Tim De Los Reyes at 725-2239 or 0917 857-9989.

Rita Moreno's Oscar moment

By Behn Cervantes

THE TEMPESTUOUS Rita Moreno is a Hispanic actress who came to Hollywood in the early '50s. The fiery dancer was named after the Hollywood "goddess" of the '40s, Rita Hayworth.

Her dancing was much-inspired by the redhead who had Glenn Ford, Tyrone Power and other matinee idols begging for sexual favors in "Gilda," "Blood and Sand" and "Saddie Thompson."

Sultry

In life, Moreno married Hollywood boy-genius Orson Welles ("Citizen Kane"), and later on, international playboy Aly Kahn. Sadly, the actress known for her sultry personality died of Alzheimer's disease.

Moreno was unfortunately cast in stereotypical Hispanic roles that merely required her to arch her eyebrows and roll her R's.

She made an insignificant ap-



MORENO. Her love affair with Marlon Brando was highly publicized.

pearance in the classic musical, "Singing in the Rain," although she graced tabloid news soon after when, in pursuit of excellence in acting, she had a highly pub-

licized love affair with Marlon Brando.

She moved on to more demanding roles after her predictable appearance in "The King and I," where she played Tup Tim. Because of her fine singing voice, she was personally chosen by Jerome Robbins to play Anita in Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story."

Comeback

This was quite a comeback for the Puerto Rican-born Rosa Dolores Alverio, who moved to New York City with her mother at age five. Her vibrant presence was felt on Broadway at age 13 and she moved to Hollywood the year after. MGM executives suggested she use the name Rita to bring Hayworth to mind, of course.

Her career breakthrough came when she was cast in "West Side Story." She went on to win an Oscar and a Golden Globe for best supporting actress. She learned of her Oscar nomination while

making "No Place to Hide," a Pacific war movie shot entirely in the Philippines with Oscar winner Van Heflin ("Johnny Eager"). She felt at home in the Philippines.

Among those she befriended while shooting the movie here was Pitoy Moreno, already a much-admired couturier. She chose him to design her gown for Oscar night. The producers of her movie granted Rita permission to take a few days off from the tropical shoot and fly to Los Angeles for the big night.

Hollywood fashion

Oscar night is admittedly a night of great Hollywood fashion, so each star tries to outdo the other. Even then, fashion critics would point out who wore what and who looked best. When the doyenne of Hollywood film design, Edith Head, was asked who had the best gown of the evening, she said: "Rita Moreno!" Take a bow, Pitoy.

Fil-Am director . . . From page A3-1

they hurl abuse at each other in a dance still informed by desire. The play ends with the possibility of hope.

"This fascinating multi-media production accomplishes much with little under Valdes-Aran's gifted direction. Like projected stereotypes, video images project onto the characters, as well as onto the back mirror."

—Heady praise! The Star Tribune's Rohan Preston seconds the motion: "Play director Valdes-Aran is an Obie Award winner and a Filipina. She and Murakoshi are longtime collaborators who met in a production more than 20 years ago. Valdes-Aran's fluid staging offers in one evening of theater the kind of boldness people spend a lifetime trying to achieve."

Dramatic voice

"The director deftly sets the action on the stage's spare, white-colored diamond. Her direction

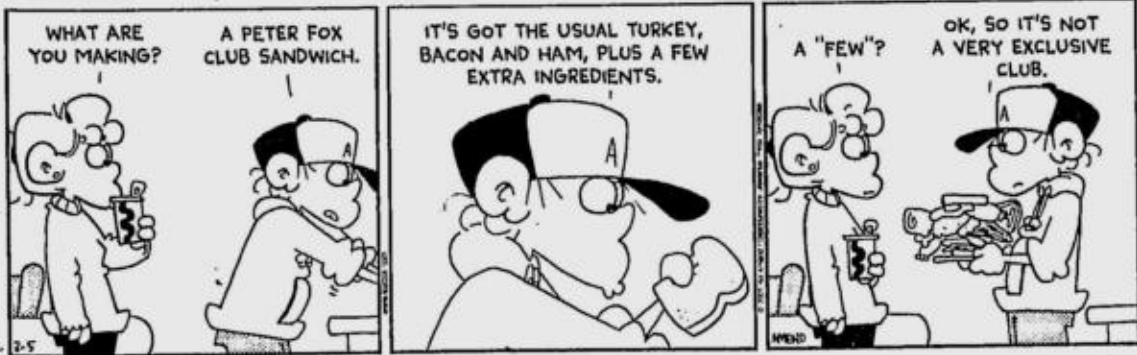
supports, even elevates, the text."

Finally, Quinton Skinner in City Pages makes it three positive reviews in a row: "The attractive set, designed by director-choreographer Valdes-Aran with Jason Allyn-Schwerin, is intensely abetted by Mark Dougherty's lighting."



"SLIPPERY WHEN WET." Offers the kind of boldness people spend a lifetime trying to achieve.

FOXTROT



MARVIN



BABY BLUES



ATOMO AND WEBOY



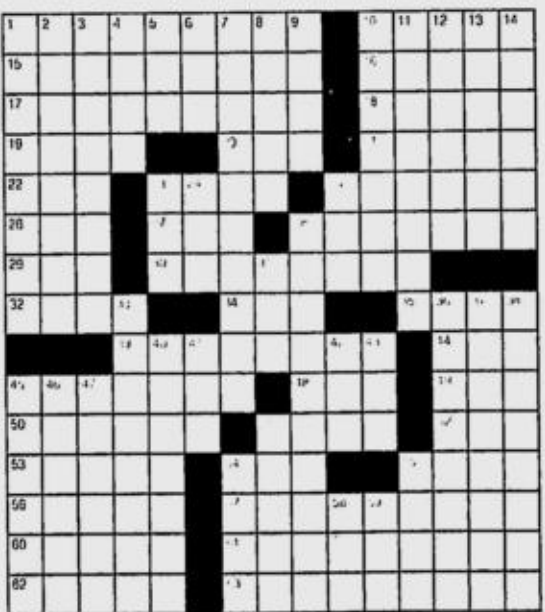
HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're brave, proactive and idealistic. You believe in doing something that has to do with your values. Externally, you're debonair and charming; but privately, you're committed and quite secretive. You seem to live life more intensely than others do. This year is a social year. Enjoy new relationships and warmer friendships. (Some will marry.)
Birthdate of: Jake Lloyd, actor; Dean Stockwell, actor; Penn Jillette, illusionist.

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): Remember that your focus now is on solidifying your home scene. Take care of repairs and renovations. Similarly, be supportive of family members.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): You're giving serious consideration to what you should do to earn money. At a deeper level, you really want to know what matters in life.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): Most of you are looking at a residential or job change. You don't like to do things hastily. Give this some serious thought.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): Ever since 2001, your life has been changing! You're on the road to inventing a new you. Don't be afraid to experiment with new images and different clothing, hairstyles and looks.
- LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): For some time now, you've been trying to streamline your life. You've been getting rid of clothing, furniture, books and all kinds of things you no longer need.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You have been trying to think of how you can lend your efforts to a group or a cause that is bigger than you. You want to be part of something meaningful.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's time for some serious thinking. You see now what is working in your life; you can also see what is not working. Don't waste time on regrets. Just get on with things.
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is definitely a time of preparation for you. Great success and accomplishment await you in the next few years. Work hard now to reap your rewards later.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have had to get along with less because your partner has changed jobs something similar. Whatever happened has thrown you back on your own resources.
- CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're out of the gate and running! Don't be afraid to show others what you're made of. Now is the time to test your influence.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You've been working hard for so long, you're almost overwhelmed. Later this year, you'll get recognition for all your efforts.
- PISCES** (Feb. 19 to March 20): Increased responsibilities with children have been a factor for many of you. All of you, however, are trying to find out what your true career path in life is.

DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Antitheses
 - Marina poles
 - Casehardened steel
 - Lead-in
 - Ptolemy's sister
 - Kind of poll
 - With fewer calories
 - Notes of scales
 - Clear a frosted windshield
 - Play for a fool
 - Spellers' contests
 - Long-time Mets hurler
 - Marino or Fouts
 - Galley blade
 - Straw hats
 - Begley and Wynn
 - Likely but uncertain
 - Sandra and Ruby
 - Burning
 - D.C. bigwigs
 - Lack of punctuality
 - Helios
 - Apollo's twin sister
 - Na Na
 - Actor Gulager
 - Tranquil
 - Writing on the wall
 - Math subj.
 - Anaconda or copperhead
 - 6 on the phone
 - Stopper
 - Gutters' location
 - Make slender
 - Work period
 - Losses
 - consciousness
 - Full of back talk
 - Splashes



By Tom Pruett
Chicago, IL

3/5/05



©2005 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

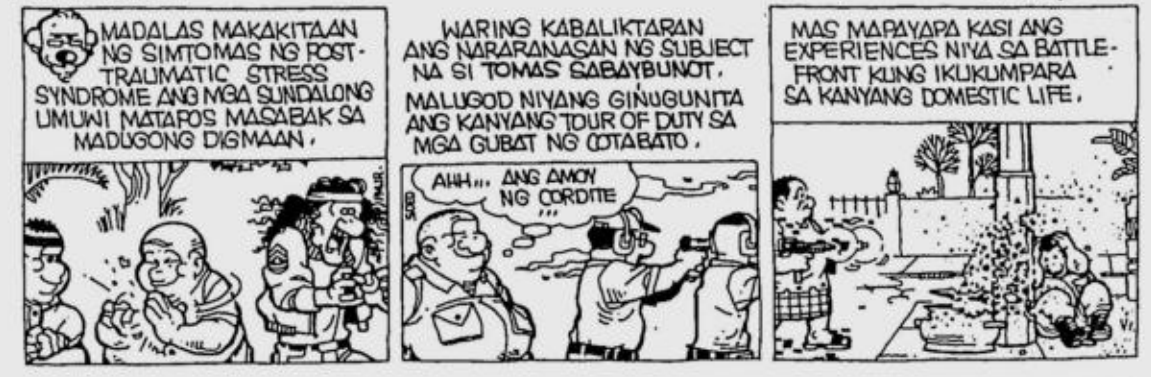
- DOWN**
- Brought together, as teeth
 - Defensive stake fence
 - False front
 - Clarinet's cousin
 - Dine
 - Pension S
 - Star parts
 - Pound and Cornell
 - Oceans
 - Card-game do-over
 - Long-tongued predator
 - Work hard
 - Missing-persons investigator
 - Planters
 - Art Tatum's style
 - Knack for music
 - Let tears fall
 - "Psycho" setting
 - Hopper
 - Makes glossy
 - Storming the ramparts
 - Contaminator
 - Cleanup hitters
 - In a dominant position
 - Time and Newsweek, briefly
 - Fourth-down option
 - ISS partner
 - Crackpot
 - General pardon
 - Equal score
 - Thar _ blows!
 - José, CA
 - Determine a tax
 - Soprano
 - Tebaldi
 - Singer Tritt

GASPAR
fuel saving tips
KEEP TIRES AT PROPER AIR PRESSURE.
You're saving money every time you fill up. But a little less properly inflated, a reduction in tire pressure of just 1 psi can increase fuel savings up to 1%.

BY JESS ABRERA



PUGAD BABOY



MUTTS



DIVINE COMEDY



MIKROKOSMOS



BEN



KIKO MACHINE



LOVEKNOTS



TULDOK





SM City Pampanga, Southmall hold big 3-day sale

Peso power spreads north and south as SM City Pampanga in San Fernando and SM Southmall Las Piñas offer spectacular values during their simultaneous 3-day sale on March 4, 5 and 6.

BIG BIG DISCOUNTS AT BOTH MALLS

Shoppers can take their pick from a wide selection of apparel, fashion, accessories, home and office furniture and decor, IT gadgets, big and small appliances, novelty items, hardware tools and many more at up to 50% price breaks at participating establishments.

MALL HOURS ARE FROM 10 AM TO 10 PM, MARCH 4, 5 AND 6.

CELEBRATE THE GOOD TIMES AT SM PAMPANGA FIESTA STRIP

Choose from an array of delectable food choices against a backdrop of feel-good music.

Gerry's Grill offers tempting Filipino fare. Sushi-Ya serves Japanese Cuisine. Mini Shabu Shabu specializes in seafood delicacies. Northern Brew serves coffee and pasta.



up to
50% off

great
selections
mallwide

**3 day
Sale**

march 4.5.6

EXCITING RAFFLE PRIZES & FREEBIES

SM CITY PAMPANGA

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Foodcourt or any participating mall tenants entitles shopper to one (1) raffle coupon. Shoppers earn an additional raffle coupon upon presentation of the 3-day sale leaflet with their proof of purchase.

• **SM Cinema Shoppers** earn one (1) raffle coupon for every single purchase of three cinema tickets. Additionally, purchase of two movie tickets entitles customer to one free Cheeky Curls or People Fish Crackers.

• **SM FoodCourt** For an additional P1.00, a customer can get an extra 12 oz. Iced Tea for every purchase of Nestea Combo Meal. Offer is good only during the 3-day sale.

In addition, every P100 purchase with 16oz Nestea drink entitles customer to one (1) raffle coupon for a chance to win cellphones. Raffle draw will be held every two weeks, now until March 13, 2005.

• **Amusement Center** Every P100 single purchase of tokens entitles a shopper to one raffle coupon.

SM CITY PAMPANGA PRIZES

A total of 15 units of LG 1.5 hp Room Air Conditioners are at stake, 5 units are raffled off everyday from March 4 to 6.

SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS

Every P500 single or accumulated purchase (cash or charge) at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or from any participating establishment, entitles shopper to one (1) raffle coupon.

• **SM Foodcourt** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every P150 single or accumulated purchase.

• **SM Cinema** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every single purchase of four (4) cinema tickets.

• **Amusement Centers** Customer gets one (1) raffle coupon for every P100 single purchase of tickets / tokens.

Prizes at Stake

4 units MHC-GN90D - Sony DVD Mini Component

4 units AR212N60 - Sony 53.34CM(21") Color Television

Raffle draw will be held daily on March 4, 5 and 6, 2005, 10 pm at the Upper Ground Floor, Centermall.

Lucky winners will be drawn and announced on each of the specified dates of the sale period.

March 4, 2005 - Friday - 2 winners

1 winner - Sony DVD Mini Component

1 winner - Sony 53.34 cm (21") Color TV

March 5, 2005 - Saturday - 2 winners

1 winner - Sony DVD Mini Component

1 winner - Sony 53.34 cm (21") Color TV

March 6, 2005 - Sunday - 4 winners

2 winners - Sony DVD Mini Component

2 winners - Sony 53.34 cm (21") Color TV

SM ARENA

Fast becoming the shopping destination of sports buffs, SM Arena on level 2 is built like a racetrack. It carries a complex of stores carrying sportswear, sports gadgets and exercise machines. Among the area's main attractions are the mini bowling alley and the popular Wall Climbing.



SM ESCAPE

For those on the lookout for great shopping finds in fashion, SM Escape on level 3 has boutiques showcasing the latest trends in apparel and accessories.

CYBERZONE

Techno savvy comes of age at SM Southmall's Cyberzone, the latest tech hub in town. Here, one can get wired to the latest I.T. gadgets and gizmos or get addicted to the hottest mobile phones.



Conveniently accessible are coffee shops and an assortment of restos and cafes where shoppers can take a break from their shopping.

SM ICE SKATING RINK

Summer's upon us and the days are really starting to sizzle. As a special treat, the Rink is giving Southmall patrons a chance to win one of 15 SHREK 2 VCDs. Every two(2) Unlimited ICE Time tickets purchased from March 4 to 13 gives skaters a chance to join the raffle.

DVD MINI COMPONENT
or COLOR TV

Get a chance to

WIN

appliance prizes

with every P500 single or accumulated purchase at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket or at any participating mall establishments.

**mall hours:
10am - 10pm**

See mechanics posters for details.

ROOM AIRCONDITIONERS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-113 Series of 2005

Per DTI-PGA Permit No. 026 Series of 2005

BUSINESS

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Inflation rose to 8.5% in February

Gov't expecting lower Q1 growth

THE NATIONAL Economic and Development Authority said it was expecting economic growth to slow down in the first quarter due to weaker farm output.

"We are not too optimistic for the first quarter. The GDP (gross domestic product) may be problematic because there is the effect of El Niño, and planting has been delayed," Economic Planning Secretary and NEDA Director General Romulo Neri said in an interview with reporters after his speech during the annual membership meeting of the Philippine Economic Society yesterday.

Neri said planting of rice and corn had been delayed by lack of rain due to the El Niño dry weather pattern that started in October last year and which is likely to last until the second quarter.

He declined to give a specific GDP growth estimate for the first quarter estimate of the GDP growth for the first quarter, but said the figure would be lower than the average growth of 6.1 percent in 2004. GDP is the sum of goods and services produced in an economy in a given period.

The agriculture sector, which accounts for a fifth of the GDP, is expected to recover from production decline, which started in the last quarter of 2004, in the second quarter.

In the last quarter of 2004, agriculture growth went down to only 1.3 percent compared with the average of 4.8 percent for the entire 2004.

However, Neri said the services sector, another main driver of economic growth, was expected to be "vigorous" in the first quarter, somehow easing the impact of the decline in agricultural growth. The services sector covers businesses related to the booming business process outsourcing (BPO).

Despite the slowdown in the first quarter, the country's chief economist said the government would stick to its full-year GDP growth target of 5.3 to 6.3 percent for 2005.

GOV'T/B3

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INFLATION rate, or the rate of consumer price increases, in February rose to 8.5 percent largely due to sharp hikes in transport fares and in the costs of several food items.

The 8.5-percent year-on-year inflation in February, which used 2000 as the base year, was higher than the 8.4 percent recorded in the previous month.

"The February rate reflected a hangover from the high inflation rate in the second half of last year," Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who is also the director general of the National

Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said in an interview with reporters.

The Neda chief also said inflation was expected to remain at a relatively high level in the first few months of the year because the inflation during the early part of 2004 provided a low base in the computation of the increases in prices.

In February 2004, the inflation rate was only 4 percent. For the whole of the first quarter last year, inflation averaged at only 4.1 percent.

In its inflation report released yesterday, the National Statistics Office said prices of products belonging to the food, beverage and tobacco category (FBT) rose by 7.6 percent last month, compared with 7.4 percent in January. For food alone, inflation rose to 7.8 percent from 7.6 percent. Higher inflation was also recorded in the prices of rice, 4.8 percent in February from 4.3 percent in January; cereal preparations,

9.7 percent from 9.3 percent; dairy products, 12.7 percent from 10.4 percent; fish, 9.3 percent from 9.0 percent, and miscellaneous foods, 6.1 percent from 6.0 percent.

In the meantime, corn prices increased at a slower pace at 11.6 percent from 12.4 percent; eggs, 4.2 percent from 5.5 percent; fruits and vegetables, 9.4 percent from 9.7 percent, and meat, 8.8 percent from 9.7 percent.

The NSO also reported an increase in the cost of housing and repair to 4.5 percent in February from 4.2 percent in

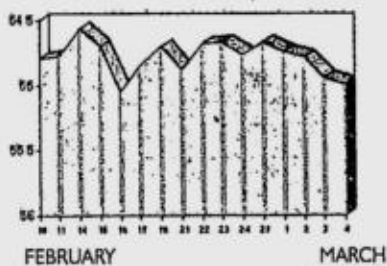
INFLATION/B5

P8,342*
The lowest
monthly
on an Optra 1.8LT
Limited Edition.



INDICATORS CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.99 = \$ 1

As of 5 p.m., March 4, 2004

Y 105.43 = \$ 1

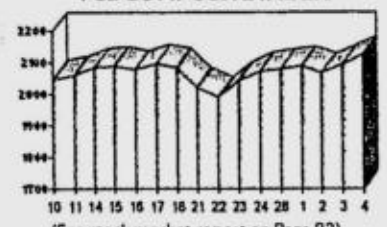
As of 5 p.m., March 4, 2005

GOLD: \$430.60-431.10

per ounce Hong Kong, March 2, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares end at new 5-yr high

SHARES yesterday closed at a new five-year high, reversing from initial weakness as foreign funds continued to flow into select blue chips led by Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index advanced 31.42 points, or 1.5 percent, to 2,124.69, breaching its immediate resistance to end at its highest level since the 2,140.78 close on Jan. 9, 2001. The index gained 24.85 points Thursday.

The broader All Shares Index rose 5.77 points to 1,194.67 after declining Thursday by 2.43 points to 2,083.27.

Gainers beat losers 59 to 42, with 40 issues unchanged.

The stock market started weak, with liquidity being siphoned off by investors trying to secure funds to join the initial public offerings of Manila Water Co. and SM Investments Corp., which together could raise around P47 billion.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co. declined 2.7 percent to P36 after it announced a plan to issue as many as 350 million shares in a stock rights offer.

AP

Low down/low monthly installments. 0% interest for 12 mos. payment. Straight discount for cash purchases. Free parts and maintenance for up to 2 years or 30,000 kms.

Limited Edition 1.8LT with Special Edition Euro styling: Alloy Wheels; Window Visor; Front, Rear and Side Skirts. Free 24/7 roadside assistance (Includes towing, lost key and flat tire change). With an offer this good, expect the Chevrolet Optra to go very, very fast. Hurry, contact Chevrolet or GM Autoworld now at 1.800.1888.4646.

*Based on 60% down payment for 72 months for Optra 1.8LT Limited Edition.

PROMO PERIOD: February 6 to March 31, 2005. For DTI-NCR Permit No. 0605 Series of 2005



GM Autoworld MAKATI 867 8183 to 87 / 894 1976 • GM Autoworld QUEZON AVE. 374 1260 to 59 • GM Autoworld SHAW 535 4941 / 533 8376 / 533 1263 / 533 6349 • Chevrolet PASIG 672 1612 / 672 1614 / 672 1486 • Chevrolet ALABANG 771 1206 to 09 • Chevrolet PAMPANGA (045) 963.3333 • GM Autoworld CEBU (032) 234.0426 • Chevrolet DAVAO (082) 300.7777 / (082) 235.3811 • Chevrolet NORTH EDSA 374.9992 to 97/374.9963 • Chevrolet CAGAYAN DE ORO (0882) 722.999 / (088) 857.9999

DOTC reports higher cargo, passenger volumes in '04

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN and domestic flights that took off and landed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport exceeded 114,000 in the first 11 months of 2004, according to the transportation department.

Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza said the substantial increase in the number of flights at the Naia, despite reported threats of terrorism, helped boost local tourism.

"The air transportation sector is optimistic that there will be greater air traffic this year because of improved economic conditions," Mendoza said.

International flights to and from the Naia reached 42,374 in the first 11 months of last year, 10.7 percent higher compared with the previous year. At the same time, domestic flights went up 7 percent to 71,927 during the same period, according to Mendoza.

Foreign flights carried 20 percent more passengers last year at 7.6 million, while domestic passengers rose 18 percent to 6.15 million.

"The increase in international and domestic air traffic may be attributed to the renewed confidence of air travelers and the airline industry in the commercial and tourism potentials of the Philippines after recovery from the effects of the SARS epidemic," Mendoza said.

As the number of flights in-

creased, the collection of airport authorities also went up.

The Manila International Airport Authority, operator of the Naia, grew its profits last year by 163 percent to P659.4 million from P250.9 million in 2003.

MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi credited the agency's efficiency, cost cutting and higher collection of fees for the substantial gain. He said the agency contributed around P1.1 billion to the national treasury in the form of taxes and dividends in 2004.

The transport chief said that the Mactan-Cebu International Airport Authority also improved its gross revenue by 15.97 percent to P676.5 million last year from P583.35 million in 2003.

The Cebu airport authority registered P226.18 million in profits against P175.65 million in 2003.

In its unaudited financial report presented to Congress, the MIAA's operating expenses dropped 12.7 percent to P2.7 billion last year, after austerity measures were set in place.

On the other hand, gross operating income went up almost 8 percent to P3.8 billion in 2004. Cusi said the higher gross income was due to higher revenue from aeronautical fees and passenger service charges.

Cusi said the increase in the number of international and domestic flights was even boosted by a higher foreign exchange rate in 2004.

Gov't should focus on family trades, not SMEs, says study

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FAMILY-RUN businesses should be given greater access to loans and government support due to their enormous potential in contributing to economic growth, unlike start-up businesses which benefit more from current funding programs.

This was one of the recommendations based on the results of a study conducted by PSRC Research International. The Thames International Business School and accounting and consultancy firm Punongbayan & Araullo sponsored the study.

Jaime Noel J. Santos, Thames IBS director, on Thursday said during a press briefing that financing start-up companies posed greater risk for lending institutions.

"We believe in the power of family businesses as engines of economic growth," Santos said. "Owners of such businesses are more committed and more dedicated because [at stake] are not just businesses... but a person or a family's reputation."

Based on interviews with business owners,

lenders—especially government funding agencies—are wary of family enterprises because of the perception that family and business matters are not separated, Santos said.

"This is a problem of policy," he said. "Based on our findings, owners of family businesses in the country are very conscious of the need to ... separate family and business issues."

The study, conducted between July 2004 and January 2005, involved 215 respondents from Metro Manila, most of whom were engaged in the manufacturing sector.

Santos said the study also found that owner-managers were generally open-minded about involving family members and relatives in their businesses, as well as getting professional managers to join their organization.

"Ironically, the respondents were most worried about divorcing [or separating from] their spouses," he said.

The respondents' greatest worries are: possible disagreements with their business partner; that the business could end up in trouble especially since all their wealth are invested

in it; and that their children who join the business may not perform well.

"Globally, these are also the top concerns among business owners, although the order varies," Santos explained.

He said local entrepreneurs were not as concerned about the size of their operations compared to their Western counterparts.

"It's an Asian thing," Santos explained. "Asians generally think of their businesses as something they would pass on to their children. As for Western business owners, they are more concerned about the value of their businesses because buying and selling companies are more prevalent in their countries."

According to Department of Trade and Industry officials, the government is stepping up efforts to support small and medium-sized enterprises, which make up the bulk of all businesses in the country.

DTI data show that SB Corp., a government financial institution, has, since 1991, extended a total of P213 billion in SME credit assistance, P10.5 billion in wholesale lending program, and P8.8 billion in credit guarantees.

Smell but terrible

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



WE ARE now certain that the small but terrible Sen. Joker Arroyo has a strong sense of smell.

According to the recent headline-grabbing rant the good senator made when he talked about the 10-percent rights offering of San Miguel, Joker smelled something fishy.

Sure, everybody may be excited about the offering, including the stock market, because, for one, it signals the return of a little action in the comatose capital markets.

But apparently, Joker sniffed the nominees of this cute administration of Gloriaaeta to the San Miguel board, and found them excited about the same offering.

To Joker, those nominees were "duty-bound to protest the move, or at least get instructions on how they should vote."

Instead, the nominees approved the offering. That's why Joker did not seem to like the rights offering's ... well, odor.

IN BUSINESS, anyway, people think of all sorts of stupid things that are designed to protect people who put hard-earned cash in stocks.

One of these is a thing called "fiduciary responsibility." This has nothing to do with living things under water, or rotting seafood.

It only means, for the sake of action senators from Cavite and Pampanga, that board directors have the obligation to serve all its stockholders. Again, I said "ALL!"

Imagine what will happen if directors in

listed companies like San Miguel only look after the interest of those who elected them to the board.

We all know that the "majority" stockholders of listed companies can and do elect the entire board.

Do I take it then that, if we were to take the joke from our dear senator seriously, those directors must only serve the interest of the majority stockholders?

Come on. Those government nominees to the San Miguel board have the duty to protect the interest of ALL stockholders—not just the interest of this cute administration. Believe me, they are not always one and the same.

For instance, San Miguel is always in the habit of making money, while this cute administration just spends money like anything. Look, ma, more killer taxes!

ANYWAY, just take a look at the line-up of government nominees to the San Miguel board, such as veteran banker OV Espiritu, or Menardo Jimenez, the former president of GMA-7.

Do you mean to tell me those guys don't take a bath, and so Joker thinks they have to use deodorant to remove their fishy smell?

By implication, Joker's malodorous rant tells us that, by approving the offering, either the San Miguel management corrupted those guys, or they were simply stupid.

Here's a little advice: Don't ever call those two guys either corrupt or stupid, because people who really know them will kill you.

Precisely, as old hands in the corporate scene, those nominees know they have the obligation—even legally, brood—to all the stockholders.

Thinking people as they are, they cannot sit in any corporate board as mere puppets of anybody in the PCGG, or even the Senate, for that matter.

TO THINK that board directors only serve the interest of those who elected them, to me, is quite a narrow way of looking at things.

It is always what is good and not good—all right, BAD—for the company. This is the only way to serve all the stockholders. It is not by stopping every move of management that will allow the stockholders to make more money.

In the case of San Miguel, indeed, the government is one of the stockholders. It claims to own 27 percent of the company, for and in behalf of coconut farmers.

Other government outfits also invested in the company, but the San Miguel holdings of both GSIS and SSS are not actually government money.

Those investments came from the money of GSIS and SSS members. The government is just running funds. Their officials make a lot of money in the process.

Now, when it comes to those holdings in San Miguel, based on the senatorial joke, it's as if the interest of the government is against the interest of the other stockholders of the company.

Correct me if I think I'm always right, but I think the interest of stockholders, whether government or not, is for the company to make money for them. Hey, San Miguel is a business!

AND SO the question to ask is this: Is the rights offering good for the stockholders or not?

As an indication, the price of San Miguel shares in the stock market has been going up—despite the supposed "stink" that Joker smelled.

The stock market, with all its wily players and well-informed fund managers, must like something in San Miguel, even the stock rights offering.

Look, bulok, that offering will raise money for the company's expansion. And, of course, we all know what expansion means. It means more profits later.

In fact, I think that those directors who

were accused of having horrible smell, did this cute administration a favor by voting for the rights offering.

The proceeds will put San Miguel on track in an expansion drive never before seen in this country—in this lifetime, or in any other previous lifetimes.

It is positioning itself as a leader in the region in the food business. That's why the company is not too hot on real estate. It is concentrating on something it knows how to do—food.

Guess what? Even this giant first Filipino multinational San Miguel needs money for expansion. Well, nothing comes free.

I am not sure if coconut farmers, who own the 27 percent in San Miguel that the PCGG, er, "represents," will not be happy, if San Miguel makes more money.

But I know that all the other stockholders will be happy.

Let me see if I got this right. You mean, boss, what is good for all the other stockholders is not necessarily good for one stockholder called the government? Is that it?

MAYBE Joker was worried about what the media reported as "dilution" of the government interest in San Miguel due to the rights offering.

This financially-challenged cute administration reportedly does not have the money to invest on the 10-percent rights offering.

It only has the money to waste on other business ventures like Napocor. Or even pure cost centers like Congress!

Anyway, even considering that the government does not take up its share in the rights offering and its shares go down by 10 percent, it will still be the owner of a much bigger San Miguel which, thanks to the expansion, will likely rake in more profits.

In other words, the government earnings from the supposedly "diluted" holdings may be even much more than its earnings from the present "undiluted" holdings. And that is the thing that stinks?

FOR THE SAKE of some congressmen and senators, plus PCGG officials, it is clear among stock market investors that the shares in the rights offering are treasury shares.

For the sake of action guys in the Senate, "treasury shares" used to be outstanding shares, already issued out by the company, but then they were bought back by the same company. They are not new shares.

If San Miguel is not issuing new shares for the rights offering, what freaking "dilution" are they talking about?

Everybody in the stock market knows that, in 1999, San Miguel bought back its shares. The market was doing bad, while San Miguel was doing great. Thus, at those low prices, the San Miguel shares were temptingly cheap.

And so, San Miguel was able to buy back 10 percent of the outstanding shares. Because of the "semi-retirement" of those shares, all the stockholders raised their interest by a corresponding 10 percent at that time.

There you have it—through the rights offering, San Miguel is only bringing back the treasury shares into the market. Well, at a handsome profit for San Miguel, of course, and thus the stockholders, including this cute administration.

The holdings of the stockholders, thus, are simply back to where they were in 1999 before the buy-back.

I mean, if this cute administration doesn't take up its share in the offering, its holdings return to the level before the buy-back.

Quick, somebody please tell me where the freaking dilution is!

I'LL LET YOU in on a couple of little secrets:

One, Kirin Beer of Japan is raising its holdings in San Miguel by another 4 percent, by buying in the market, which will entitle Kirin Beer to another board seat.

Two, Henry Sy Sr., who built those SM malls from scratch, is also raising his group's holdings in San Miguel.

If the rights offering is bad for the company, do you think they are crazy enough to keep on raising their holdings? Maybe. But then again Joker may just have a terribly funny sense of smell.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that on 04 October 2004, the directors and stockholders of the Pamantasan ng Araullo (Araullo University), Inc. (the "Corporation") approved the increase of the Corporation's Authorized Capital Stock from Ten Million Pesos (Php10,000,000.00) to Three Hundred Million Pesos (Php300,000,000.00) and the issuance of Sixteen Million (16,000,000) new shares. On the same date, the directors and stockholders of the Corporation approved the subsequent reduction in the par value per share from Ten Pesos (Php10.00) to Four Pesos (Php4.00), thereby decreasing the capital stock from Three Hundred Million Pesos (Php300,000,000.00) to One Hundred Twenty Million Pesos (Php120,000,000.00). The purpose of the reduction in par value is to wipe out the deficit of the Corporation.

1st MARKET MASTERS CONFERENCE

WHAT IF SOME OF
THE GREATEST MARKETING GURUS
TOLD YOU THEIR SECRETS OF SUCCESS?

April 13 & 14, 2005 • PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

PULL AND PUSH MARKETING:

Theme: "Build the Brand, Close the Sale."



Alex Castillo
President
Del Monte Phils.

Noel Lorenzana
Director of Marketing
Unilever Phils.

Marie Lee
General Manager
TNS Research

Herbert Sy
Senior VP & Director
Super Value Inc.

Robert Mebruer
Chairman/CEO
Demo Power Asia
& Act Media Asia

Zander Taningco
VP- Category Sales
Development
Nestle Phils.

Day 1

- **Brand Positioning:** How to choose a winning proposition
- **Brand Personality:** How to conceive and communicate what your brand represents
- **Brand A&P:** How to have a cost-efficient marketing budget

Day 2

- **Key Account Partnership:** How to influence key retailers to push your brand
- **In-Store Demo:** How to increase closing rate at the point-of-purchase
- **Account-Specific Sales Promo:** How to plan and evaluate promo effectiveness

CONFERENCE INVESTMENT

(non-refundable but transferable course fee includes attendance to all technical sessions, 2 snacks, and a certificate of completion)

Regular (paid during March 2005) P 6,000 per participant
On Site (paid after March 31, 2005) P 7,000 per participant

For inquiries, please call Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.

722-2318 Or 727-7142 • Mobile No.: 0920-9223732 or email info@mansmith.net

Organized by:

Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.
Specialist in Marketing and Sales Training
www.mansmith.net

For the benefit of:

MARKPROF
FOUNDATION INC.
www.markprof.org

Official Print Media Partner:

INQUIRER

Sun Cellular raises 24/7 plan rate to P350/mo.

By Clarissa S. Batino

SUN Cellular yesterday said it would launch new unlimited plans by the middle of the month.

The new schemes, it said, would allow its more than 1.5 million subscribers to text all they want within the network for as low as P50 for seven days and P150 for one month.

However, Sun Cellular also announced it would be increasing the rate of its 24/7 buffet voice and text plan to P350 a month from P250. The increase will take effect on March 14.

Also, its P100 unlimited call and text rate for 10 days would apply only to seven days starting the same date.

Sun Cellular's buffet pricing

applies on top of existing subscription plans.

William Pamintuan, senior vice president of Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. said they were realigning the rates of its plans to cater to the specific demands of different types of consumers.

In the coming months, Sun Cellular will be offering buffet plans exclusively for either voice calls or texts.

"The increase in rates for the unlimited call and text will enable Sun to expand its network faster in terms of coverage and capacity to make the service available to more people," said Pamintuan.

Sun Cellular is the trade name of Digitel Mobile Phils. Inc., a unit of Gokongwei-owned Digitel.

This year, Sun Cellular is expanding its coverage and capacity by increasing its cellular sites to about 2,000 from the existing 1,300. Pamintuan said the company had been building an average of two cellular sites a day.

In the meantime, Globe Telecom Inc.'s Touch Mobile brand will start offering next week a promo that will allow unlimited voice and text for P300 for 30 days and P50 for unlimited text for 5 days on top of current plans.

"Since our competitor has copied our strategy, then complaints against 24/7 are moot and academic," according to Pamintuan.

Pilipino Telephone Corp. claimed that out of 100 calls, Sun Cellular connects successfully only

38 calls on the first attempt. Piltel said Sun Cellular had also been cutting 24/7 calls after 15 minutes. He insisted that Sun Cellular's service standards met the benchmark set by the National Telecommunications Commission.

Innova gets BOI perks

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments yesterday said it had approved tax incentives and other perks for Toyota Motor Philippines Corp.'s P1.47-billion Innova vehicle project.

The Innova, classified as a commercial vehicle, was registered as a new basic model on June 1, 2004 under Executive Order No. 156.

EO 145 provides a comprehensive industrial policy and directions for the Motor Vehicle Development Program, in which TMPC is a registered participant for the assembly of commercial vehicles and passenger cars.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said projects under the program supported the Arroyo administration's 10-point agenda and the new Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan on strengthening and sustaining the country's global competitiveness on creating 10 million jobs.

Santos said that TMPC's Innova project was expected to create 1,233 new jobs. The Innova is the

second model in Toyota's new IMV (which stand for innovative, multi-purpose vehicle) platform and replaces the Revo series. The first IMV model is the new Hilux pickup.

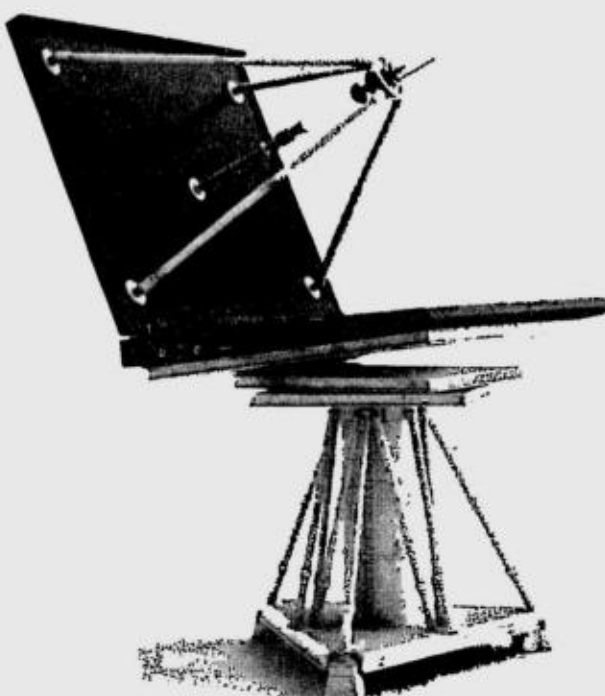
Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez, who is also BOI managing head, said the board approved the registration of the project on TMPC's commitment to strengthen its operations here to help make the country a regional auto supply base.

"The parts and development program that TMPC will implement shows an overall program for localization within the model life of Innova," Hernandez said.

He added that TMPC committed to source 23 percent of the total number of Innova parts from local suppliers.

In its application for the registration of the project with the TMPC said the Innova would have a seating capacity of eight, "a new body style with larger body size and advanced design, and new advanced interior and exterior features."

IBM recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional for Business.



If there's an available signal out there, this ThinkPad notebook will help you find it. Whether you're in familiar territory or far, far away, these IBM ThinkPad notebooks with Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology are designed to help you work wirelessly. They can even automatically detect and select your fastest connection with satellite-like precision. It's all thanks to built-in Access Connections software, only from IBM. Once a connection profile's been created, simply select a location and let your ideas take off. After all, it's easy to stay focused on your work when your PC is focused on your wireless signal. Out of this world, isn't it?

Access Connections.
Only on a ThinkCentre

IBM ThinkPad T42

Distinctive Innovation
Active Protection System
Helps protect hard drive from falls
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
Secure Chip
Fingerprint Reader

System Feature
Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor 735 (1.7GHz)
Intel® Wireless 802.11b/g
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
512MB RAM
40GB hard disk drive
Combo DVD-CRW drive
10/100/1000 Ethernet
3-year Customer Carry-in Warranty
14.1" SXGA+ 1400x1050 TFT Display
FREE Kensington lock

Express Price **PhP130,650** 2373K5A

IBM ThinkPad T42

Distinctive Innovation
Active Protection System
Helps protect hard drive from falls
Rescue & Recovery™
Push-of-a-button data backup and recovery
Secure Chip

System Feature
Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
Pentium® M Processor 725 (1.6GHz)
Intel® Wireless 802.11b/g
Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional
256MB RAM
40GB hard disk drive
Combo DVD-CRW drive
10/100/1000 Ethernet
3-year Customer Carry-in Warranty
14.1" XGA+ 1024x768 TFT Display
FREE Kensington lock

Express Price **PhP119,600** 2373K46

995 2426 | 1 800 1888 1426 | direct@ph.ibm.com
Monday to Saturday 9am - 6pm and Sunday 9am - 3pm

IBM Partners: ABC Computers Co., Inc. • Accent Micro Products, Inc. • Advance Microsystems Inc. • Advance Solutions, Inc. • Asies IT Systems • ATP Peripherals Phils., Inc. • Axis Computers • Axis International, Inc. • Ayala Systems Technology Inc. • Columbia Technologies, Inc. • Eco IT Solutions Corporation • Electroworld Office Systems • Information Products Corporation • MG Business Systems, Inc. • Micro Image Company, Ltd. • Micro Pacific Technologies & Systems Corporation • Microbase, Inc. • Microphase Enterprise Company • Northgate Technologies, Inc. • Productivity Tech Services, Inc. • Questronix Corporation • Silicon Valley Computer Center • ValueLine Systems & Solutions Corporation • Vitman Computer Systems, Inc. • Virtuality Information Technology Systems • Zenshin Systems Corporation

IBM Corporate Resellers: Creative Technologies, Inc. • Ng Khai Development Corporation • Personal Computer Specialists, Inc. • SM Equicom Computer Services, Inc. • Union Computer Systems, Inc.

*When shown, IBM reserves the right to change specifications or other product information without notice. This publication could include technical inaccuracies or typographical errors. IBM product names are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. ©2004 IBM Corp. All rights reserved. Microsoft® and Windows® are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Other Microsoft® software products may be used in this publication. IBM, the IBM logo, and the THINK logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. IBM, the IBM logo, and the THINK logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. IBM, the IBM logo, and the THINK logo are trademarks of International Business Machines Corporation. Other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Gov't expecting . . .

From page B1

He said the economy was expected to rebound after fully absorbing all the investments which were now in the pipeline, particularly those intended for the mining sector.

The government considers the recent Supreme Court decision opening the local mining industry to foreign investors as key to again attracting investments into the country.

The official said investments in infrastructure projects that were slated for the year would also push the economy upward in the second half.

Earlier, Neri said the Neda had approved the construction of several infrastructure projects for the year. These include the P27-billion Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway Project, the P27-billion North

Rail Project, and the P10-billion rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway and the Tagalog Arterial Road.

He said the government was targeting about P100 billion in infrastructure investments a year to achieve the medium-term goal of increasing the country's infrastructure spending-to-GDP ratio from 2.6 percent in 2003 to 4.2 percent by 2010. Michelle V. Remo

Live in a Resort-Like Garden Community. A Dream Home within City Limits.

Pasadena Villas
FOR SALE / LEASE!!!
For inquiries call: **523-6640**
727-7941
RON DOMINGO, JR., SAN JUAN, W.M.

OPEN HOUSE DAILY

CANYON RANCH

The fastest selling homes South of Makati

CANYON RANCH SOLD

FIND OUT WHY.
CALL: 818-9025 • 893-7050

DRIVING DIRECTIONS: Take South Expressway • Exit at Southwoods towards Governor's Drive and turn right on Governor's Drive • Enter San Lazaro Leisure Park • Follow signs to Canyon Ranch.

DEVELOPER / EXCLUSIVE MARKETING MANAGERS:
CENTURY COMMUNITIES
A SUBSIDIARY OF CENTURY PROPERTIES, INC.

www.canyonranch.com.ph

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Text us your feedback: inquirer hea name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Cesar D. Mangawag
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Anti-tobacco treaty comes into force

GENEVA—A global treaty aimed at dissuading children from smoking and helping adults kick the habit came into force on Sunday with the United Nations saying it could save millions of lives.

The World Health Organization (WHO) applauded the strong warnings on cigarette packages and the eventual ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship laid down in the world's first international public health treaty.

"It's entry into force is a demonstration of governments' commitment to reduce death and illness from tobacco use," said WHO director general Lee Jong-wook in a statement to mark the event.

The accord aims to reduce substantially the number of deaths from tobacco-related illnesses—such as cancer and heart disease—which WHO estimates kill one smoker every 6.5 seconds.

10M annual deaths by 2020

The annual death toll from tobacco-related diseases—lung cancer, heart attacks and cardiovascular diseases—could soar to 10 million by 2020, with 70 percent of the deaths in developing countries, the WHO said.

There are an estimated 1.2 billion smokers in the world. WHO surveys show that smoking rates among 13- to 15-year-old children are about 20 percent, and

health officials fear a disease time bomb as the world's population grows.

The treaty, known as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, gives members three years to slap strong health warnings on tobacco packages and limit the use of language like "low-tar" and "light" and five years to ban advertising, promotion and sponsorship.

It also recommends tax increases on tobacco products, a crackdown on smuggling, and reducing exposure to secondhand smoke.

Ratified by 57 states

The treaty will only carry legal weight in countries which have ratified it, now numbering 57. In total, 167 countries have signed the pact, but have not necessarily sent it to parliament for ratification.

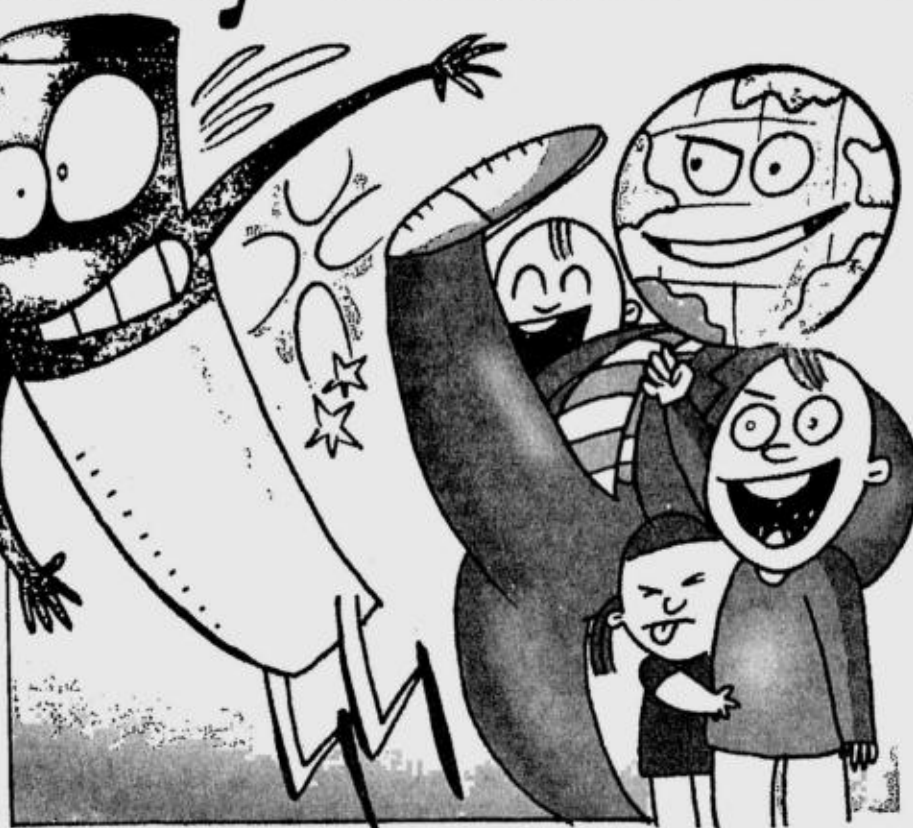
Those which have not yet ratified it include key countries like China and the United States.

A leading expert said the treaty, however, needed strengthening if it was to be effective in curbing smoking.

Dr. Derek Yach, the World Health Organization's former anti-tobacco chief who oversaw the drafting of the treaty, hailed the accord as a first step. But he said the treaty lacked what are known in United Nations jargon as "protocols"—additional agreements that toughen specific areas of a looser accord.

"The Framework without protocols is toothless," said Yach.

Yach, now professor of global public



health at Yale University, said governments, particularly those with few existing anti-tobacco policies, need clear guidelines on what exactly they should do.

With the new rules in place, studies suggest the demand for cigarettes would only fall 1 percent to 2 percent a year, WHO officials have said.

"No targets were ever discussed for the FCTC, so we do not have a sense of

what constitutes success," said Yach. "Is a 2 percent decline good news, or should we aim for 6-8 percent?"

With the tobacco accord in force, ratifying countries are supposed to enact the reforms. There are no penalties if they fail to do so, but their record would be examined at future UN anti-tobacco conferences, the first of which is scheduled for February 2006.

AFP, AP

Smoking bad for your brain

PARIS—Smoking has long been known to cause cancer, heart disease, impotence and so on. Now, damage to your IQ can be added to the list.

Researchers in Scotland assessed the mental abilities of 465 people who had been enrolled in an IQ test at the age of 11 in 1947. The volunteers were tested again between 2000 and 2002, when they were 64. Roughly half of them were smokers.

Smokers performed significantly worse in five different cognitive tests than both former smokers and those who had never smoked.

"When social and health factors such as education, occupation and alcohol consumption were taken into account, smoking still appeared to contribute to a drop in cognitive function of just under one percent," New Scientist reported.

Why smoking could affect cognitive ability is unclear. One possible reason is that, in later life, brain cells are more susceptible to damage by rogue atoms called free radicals, which could be unleashed by chemicals in tobacco smoke.

The study was led by Lawrence Whalley of the University of Aberdeen.

AFP

Putting more fiber into your diet

By Charles E. Buban

EAT more fiber. You've probably heard this a lot of times, but do you know why fiber is good for your health?

"Few people understand the importance of dietary fiber, or where to get it. It is important because it has an influence on the digestion process from start to end," says Dr. Carla Sibulo, Gastroenterology Section head at the Ospital ng Maynila.

Dietary fiber—found mainly in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and legumes (beans, peas and lentils)—is probably best known for its ability to prevent or relieve constipation.

"Fiber may also provide other health benefits, including reducing one's risk of several diseases such as diabetes and heart disease," says Sibulo.

Soluble, insoluble

Fiber includes all parts of plant foods that the body can't digest or absorb and is classified into two categories: insoluble, or those that don't dissolve in water, and soluble.

Insoluble fiber can help produce soft, bulky stools, which promotes regular bowel movement and prevents constipation. Soluble fiber helps prolong stomach emptying time, and in the process, the sugar in the food is released and absorbed more slowly, contributing to the lowering of blood cholesterol and glucose levels, says Sibulo.



Weight control

Eating a high-fiber diet may also help control one's weight.

"Since high-fiber foods generally require more chewing time, it gives the body enough time to signal the brain that the body is already full, so one is less likely to overeat," explains Sibulo.

Sibulo advises those who eat an increased amount of fiber to also drink plenty of water.

One needs to drink over six glasses of water a day when one increases his fiber intake since the body needs extra water to process the additional fiber, Sibulo explains.

Sibulo also says that too much fiber eaten too quickly can cause intestinal gas and abdominal bloating.

"Adding fiber to one's diet should be done gradually over a period of a few weeks to help the digestive system adjust to the change," Sibulo says.

Sibulo says that with the Filipino diet shifting toward more refined or processed foods—such as fruit juice, white bread and pasta—people are now taking in less fiber.

"The refining process removes the outer coat from grain, which lowers its fiber content. Similarly, removing the skin from fruits and vegetables decreases their fiber content," she says.

Sibulo suggests experimenting with brown rice, or eating more fruits like apples, bananas and oranges, which are good sources of fiber.

Supplements

Some people, however, may need a fiber supplement if dietary changes are not sufficient or if they have certain medical conditions, such as irritable bowel syndrome, says Dr. Nini de Guzman, a medical consultant at Westmont Pharmaceuticals Inc., a distributor of a fiber supplement containing psyllium husk (under the brand Fibermate).

She says fiber supplements are generally safe although one should also drink a lot of water every day to help them work more effectively.

Joey Solidum Jr., marketing director of Westmont, says psyllium husk offers one of the highest sources of dietary fiber—eight times more soluble than oat bran.

Says Solidum, "Psyllium husk generally does not cause excessive gas and bloating, an advantage over wheat bran and some other fiber supplements."

Attention, International Math Olympiad participants

THE INTERNATIONAL Math Olympiad (IMO) is the most prestigious math fest in the world. Ethel David, [mathel16@hotmail.com], a former Philippine team member to the IMO, writes:

I am happy to note, from reading your column, that young Filipinos like Stephen Dy continue to bring honors in the Math field to our country. I also want to express my appreciation to you for bringing math closer to the general reader.

The Philippines first participated in the IMO in 1988, from July 9 to 21. It was the 29th IMO, and it was held in Canberra, Australia. The first Philippine team was composed of Jerome Khohaying (who also participated in the 30th IMO and got a bronze medal) from Xavier School, Joseph Luchangco from Ateneo de Manila High School, Dennis Chua from Grace Christian High School, and Guido David and Joseph del Callar, from Philippine Science High School.

They were coached by Dr. Jose Marasigan and Dr. Milagros Ibe of the University of the Philippines College of Education.

No news

Jerome, Joseph Luchangco and Joseph del Callar went to MIT, while Dennis studied college at Ateneo, and Guido at UP. Unfortunately, I have no more news of Jerome and the two

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



Josephs save that they graduated from MIT, and of Dennis.

Guido went on to get his MS in Math from UP, taught for a while at the UP Math Department, then got his MS in Applied Math from Texas A & M. At present, he's into biomedical engineering at Texas A & M. It would be nice to hear about the others; through your column, perhaps?

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and commend Dr. Marasigan for his untiring efforts in promoting math in the country, for supporting young mathematicians, and for participating in international competitions like the IMO.

Thank you for your letter. I hope the participants will touch base and keep in touch with one another.

Fuel alternative

Ferdinand Audjie [rutnansampau@yahoo.com] asks about water as fuel:

I have read several Mind Games in Inq7.net and I'm interested in reading more. I would be delighted if you could discuss topics regarding water as fuel alternative which were

hot topics before.

There are a lot of websites touting water as a potential fuel source, but none of them have consistent valid results to back their contentions.

There have also been rumors of Filipino scientists and inventors working on water as an alternative energy source, but so far nothing concrete has panned out. (I may be wrong, so readers, if anyone has rigorous information, please share it with us.)

Renewable energy

The most that can be said now is that water is still one of the traditional renewable energy resources (especially in the form of hydroelectric power and ocean thermal energy). Ocean currents and winds result from the uneven distribution of the sun's radiation over the surface of the earth, and the winds produce waves whose energy can be used.

The sun also heats the upper layers of the ocean, which in turn raise temperatures that can be harnessed to produce electricity.

Hydroelectric power is also familiar, and is also due to the sun's effect on the earth and oceans. Water evaporates and travels over continents, and falls down again as rain to form rivers, streams and so on, whose energy can be used.

By the way, I am no longer writing for Inq7.net, but thank you for your support.

Unmet need for heart failure treatment

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

TOKYO—It's always a pleasure to be in this progressive city and be so warmly welcomed by our Japanese colleagues. It's even more heart-warming to note that despite their highly advanced stature in medical science, technology and research, their relative superiority has not gone to their heads and turned them into stiff, arrogant Asians.

MEDICAL FILES

Earlier this week, I co-chaired with Prof. Aldo Pietro Maggioni, a scientific forum on advances in heart failure, or HF. Medical leaders from all over Asia shared clinical information and insights on how they manage HF.

I and two other Filipino cardiologists, Jorge Sison and Danilo Kuizon, were privileged to be invited to this meeting which was organized by Takeda, the biggest pharmaceutical company in Japan.

Professor Maggioni, a renowned authority on HF and director of one of Europe's biggest research centers, shared a

lot of valuable information, and it was reassuring to learn from him that even in Europe, there are still an unmet need in the treatment of HF, similar to what we experience in Asia.

HF results from high blood pressure, narrowing of the heart arteries or coronary artery disease, destruction of the heart valves as in rheumatic heart disease, and other causes of weakening of the heart muscles including infections, alcoholism and malnutrition.

Some viral infections may weaken the heart muscles and lead to HF. The hapless patient experiences worsening difficulty of breathing when he is just doing minimal physical activity, and later on, even at rest. The patient becomes an invalid in the late stages.

High death rate

Despite advances in the treatment of HF, it still carries a high rate of death and repeated admissions to the hospital. Close to 10 percent of patients will die in 60 days. More than half will no longer be around in five years. Practically everyone shall have rested in peace in 10 years.

There is a big need to come up with new



therapies which can significantly optimize treatment of patients suffering from HF.

The chances of HF increases when one develops a heart attack, which may lead to the weakening of the heart muscles. This is called systolic dysfunction and the heart usually becomes enlarged (cardiomegaly).

But even patients with normal-sized hearts can experience HF. The beating of the heart may be strong, but it does not relax as it should during diastole, the heart's resting period in between beats. This is called diastolic heart failure.

Symptoms

Symptoms may develop insidiously such that HF patients hardly notice them or attribute them to something else. One should suspect heart failure if they have the following signs and symptoms:

- Shortness of breath on exertion or, in severe cases, even at rest
- Difficulty breathing when lying down
- Nocturnal dyspnea, or waking up at night with a sensation of drowning
- Swelling of the legs due to edema, progressing upward

- Rapid increase in weight due to water retention
 - Engorgement of the neck veins.
- Patients must see their doctors when they have any of the symptoms.

Treatment

HF patients are generally advised therapeutic lifestyle modifications, or TLC, which include quitting smoking and excessive alcohol drinking, avoiding strenuous activities and cutting down on salt and water intake.

Medications are also prescribed to get rid of the excess fluid, to improve the pumping function of the heart and to open up the blood vessels to reduce the resistance to blood flow.

We are fortunate to have many effective drugs for HF, such as angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin receptor blockers and low-dose beta blockers. Use of these drugs, however, can be double-bladed and it's always best to let the doctor decide which drug to use and at what dose.

These drugs not only can improve the quality of life of HF patients but they also can prolong survival.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 4, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	29.5	30	29	30	247,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	59	59	283,400
China Banking Corp.	670	675	670	675	230
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50.5	51.5	50.5	51	437,900
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.98	26,640,000
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	13,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	34	36	5,698,900
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	11,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.75	14.75	14.75	14.75	4,000
Security Bank Corp.	30	30.5	30	30	544,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	31	30.5	31	101,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.95	0.99	0.94	0.99	360,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	236,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	136	136	136	136	2,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1725	1730	1725	1730	310
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	52,400
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.52	1.54	1.48	1.52	7,359,900
Globe Telecom Inc.	930	945	930	945	19,440
Ipeople Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	60,000
ISN Communications Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	30,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.39	0.42	0.39	0.42	460,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	9,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.8	3.65	3.8	8,404,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1420	1480	1420	1465	183,870
Ivanhoe Corp.	0.76	0.79	0.76	0.78	2,510,000
Philweb Corp.	0.02	0.021	0.019	0.021	254,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	20	19.5	20	327,400
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31.5	31	31.5	1,128,400
Petron Corp.	4	4.1	4	4.05	1,833,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.44	329,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.98	1.96	1.98	20,000
Abolitz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	99,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.3	8.3	8	8.3	684,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	120,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.73	0.75	0.72	0.72	5,690,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.25	831,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	349,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	36	36	36	36	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29.5	30	29.5	30	21,500
Pancake House Inc.	1.26	1.34	1.26	1.34	125,000
RFM Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.04	1.12	2,505,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.42	360,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56	57	55	57	311,300
San Miguel Corp. B	78	79	78	79	79,300
Universal Robina Corp.	10.5	10.5	10	10.5	850,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	80,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	20,000,000
Ayala Corp.	8.3	8.4	8.2	8.4	7,603,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.84	0.89	0.84	0.89	2,940,000
Abolitz Equity Ventures	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	1,021,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11	11	11	11	13,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.06	0.048	0.06	122,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.3	2.34	2.22	2.32	6,755,000
APC Group Inc.	0.46	0.48	0.46	0.46	4,510,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	107,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	31,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.87	0.88	0.87	0.87	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	21.75	24	21.75	23.75	146,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	16,400,000
Benares Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.34	38,491,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,000,000
Cadp Group Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	37,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	2,000,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.53	2,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4	4.1	3.95	4.1	2,251,000
Ever-Goteco Resources	0.06	0.06	0.055	0.055	2,700,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	6,000
Phil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	91,100
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	57.5	58.5	57.5	57.5	628,800
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.23	0.28	0.23	0.28	1,930,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.115	7,130,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	290,000
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.45	625,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.019	0.02	0.019	0.02	2,500,000
Medco Holdings	0.49	0.52	0.46	0.5	2,680,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.58	1.7	1.68	1.7	4,565,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.45	0.54	0.45	0.47	1,200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	19,980,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	10,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	240,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.02	233,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.66	0.66	0.65	0.65	520,000
Tanday Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	5,000
Unwinda Holdings Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.195	0.2	8,430,000
Wellux Industries Inc.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	1,150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	1,260,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	20,000
Musim Semiconductors Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.68	1.68	100,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	820,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.13	2,780,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	8,020,000
Accesite Phils Hotel Corp.	9.9	10.5	9.5	10.5	10,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.14	1.22	1.14	1.22	2,261,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.56	3,971,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	540,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.25	414,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series J	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9	9.5	9	9.4	16,648,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.41	0.51	0.41	0.51	830,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	19,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.96	1	0.96	0.98	440,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	2,040,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	5,870,000
ElB Realty Developers Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.27	0.29	570,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.52	15,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.76	1.84	1.76	1.84	4,527,000
Goteco Land Inc. B	0.17	0.175	0.17	0.17	250,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	290,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	830,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	3	3.15	3	3.15	766,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.28	2,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.82	1.82	476,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8.8	9.1	8.8	9	7,111,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	270,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	120,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	162,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.5	6.5	6	6	1,121,000
Lapanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	11,500,000
Lapanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	4,390,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.019	30,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.028	0.028	53,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.0095	0.011	1,855,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.16	2,470,000
Phillex Mining Corp. B	1.42	1.42	1.38	1.4	1,335,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	43	43	41	42.5	1,230,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	21,100,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	154,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	21,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	40,000
Pacific	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	18,300,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.225	10,080,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	420,000

CURRENCIES

March 4, 2005	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.762660	1.000000	54.8720
Japan	Yen	0.007248	0.009503	0.5214
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455003	1.907800	104.6848
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.097782	0.128212	7.0352
Switzerland	Franc	0.645939	0.846955	46.4741
Canada	Dollar	0.613318	0.804182	44.1271
Singapore	Dollar	0.468407	0.614175	33.7010
Australia	Dollar	0.598305	0.784498	43.0470
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.023025	2.652590	145.5529
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.203371	0.266660	14.6322
Brunei	Dollar	0.466973	0.612295	33.5979
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000108	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.019835	0.026008	1.4271
UAE	Dirham	0.207651	0.272272	14.9401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.311200	71.9482
Argentina	Peso	0.258398	0.338811	18.5912
Brazil	Real	0.283939	0.372301	20.4289
Denmark	Kroner	0.134369	0.176184	9.6676
India	Rupee	0.017500	0.022946	1.2591
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.200727	0.263193	14.4419
Mexico	New Peso	0.068658	0.090025	4.9399
New Zealand	Dollar	0.555066	0.727802	39.9360
Norway	Kroner	0.121683	0.159551	8.7549
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012855	0.016855	0.9249
South Africa	Rand	0.128416	0.168379	9.2393
Korea	Won	0.000758	0.000994	0.0545
Sweden	Kroner	0.110620	0.145045	7.9589
Syria	Pound	0.014692	0.019264	1.0571
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024859	0.032595	1.7886
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000355	0.000466	0.0256

TURNAROUND PERFORMANCE

Bacnotan nets P4.1B in 2004

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. (BCII) posted an income of P4.1 billion in 2004, a turnaround from net losses of P583 million in 2003, mainly due to the sale of its interest in Union Cement Holdings Corp.

The New--The Real Bank Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams.



Ms. Guttierrez is a professional speaker, corporate trainer, textbook writer, and teacher. The training aims to re-orient all The Real Bank employees on the Bank's corporate values centered on honesty, integrity, efficiency, dedication, and quality service.

Beyond improving service, however, the new **The Real Bank is principled on actively contributing to the nation's progress.** Thus, believing that this vision is best accomplished by creating avenues to promote traditional Filipino values that are essential to success, The Real Bank went into an **advocacy campaign on saving and thriftiness among the children in cooperation with the country's educators themselves -- the Department of Education.** This advocacy campaign entitled **"Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop"** serves as the cornerstone of the many plans of the new The Real Bank towards achieving its very own vision as it evolves into a new and better financial institution that outshines all the rest.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Message

My warm congratulations to The Real Bank as it is re-launched in March 2005. I had your renewed commitment to actively contribute to national progress by providing efficient banking services as well as actively participating in the value formation and revival process among Filipinos. It is my hope that you would uphold your dictum of "Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams." Relative to your vision of reviving Filipino values and transforming and empowering the Philippine society, I hope that you will continue to conceive worthwhile programs such as your Savings Advocacy Campaign for Children.

I join The Real Bank in lending the country in our march towards an enduring economic prosperity. Let us consolidate our efforts and work unselfishly to achieve and maintain a strong nation!

MABUHAY KAYONG LAHATI

NOLI "KABAYÁN" M. DI CASTRO
Vice President
Republic of the Philippines



BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS

Message

Congratulations to the new The Real Bank!

We, at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, are taking note of your accomplishments, particularly those in relation to:

- your firm resolution to realize your vision and live up to your name, corporate motto and dictum of "Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams."
- your expansion of network, which certainly facilitates continuous mobilization of funds and servicing of financial requirements of the community within your office's jurisdiction.
- your partnership with the Department of Education for your "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Advocacy Campaign, which undoubtedly is a noble way of translating your vision into action.

These are all supportive and complementary to many of our initiatives to reform the Philippine financial system through improved accessibility of financial services and enhanced financial literacy of the Filipino populace.

I therefore urge to sustain your vigor and maintain your cooperative stance in our quest of making the Philippine financial architecture at par with the global financial community.

ALFREDO S. BARRETTO
Chairman of the Board
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Message

I convey my congratulations to The Real Bank for conceptualizing a project that supports and reinforces the Department of Education's emphasis on developing the values of thrift and saving, discipline and frugality.

The Bank's partnership with the DepEd in the formation of the foregoing values at an early age can establish a strong and solid foundation for more responsible and productive adults in society in the future. The Real Bank's program -- "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Advocacy Campaign, which integrates teaching of the desirable values with fun and interactive activities in the classroom, can enhance the learning of the students. This also provides opportunities for them to learn to express themselves in communicating ideas through the advocacy program.

We will, in the future, measure the impact of this program on the participating students' values and behavior and how they can sustain habits and values formed as good citizens of the country. Only then can we say that our vision of the effective social participant in society in the long term shall have been fulfilled.

FE A. HIDALGO
Undersecretary
Department of Education



THE REAL BANK

Message

It is with great honor that I present the new The Real Bank to our banking public. This task of re-introducing our organization is difficult. It entails serious efforts toward developing a new culture, a better work system and operations and a fresh vision that will motivate our employees and build up the trust and confidence of our clients. But I accepted and now live up to this challenge. We have given this our best and we continue to enhance all aspects of our services to live up to our dictum of Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams. Our sincere gratitude to all our partners in this endeavor. May the good Lord be with us all.

JOSE G. ARAULLO
Chairman of the Board
The Real Bank

A Brief History

From its humble beginning as a single-unit savings and loan bank in Cainta, Rizal in 1976 that eventually added 3 branches in Malolos and Guiguinto, Bulacan and Antipolo, Rizal to its network during its first 18 years of operation, **Real Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (RSLAI)** realized its most significant development only under its current ownership since 1994.

With strengthened authorized capitalization of only P15 Million in 1976 to P50 Million in 1994; P200 Million in 1995; P750 Million in 1996 then to P1 Billion in 1997 the bank was re-named to **Real Bank, A Thrift Bank, Inc.** This was followed by a very aggressive branch network expansion that paved the way for the establishment of 20 new branches in a span of 4 years including the transfer of its head office in Quezon City by 1998. These new branches were located in Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna, Cavite, Batangas and Metro Manila.

The increase in capital base made it also possible for Real Bank to enhance its banking services from regular savings and loan products and services into the introduction of its current account, special savings and foreign currency deposit operations. Real Bank then started establishing relationships in the communities where they serve.

Creating Yet a New History

With the vision of continuously developing itself to provide better quality service to its clientele, the Bank yet transforms anew as the new management headed by Chairman of the Board Jose G. Araullo and President Alfredo S. Barretto carried out new strategies that are all geared towards creating a new and much improved financial institution now proudly called, **The Real Bank.**

Starting off with a re-engineered vision and mission that is focused on upholding Filipino values and supporting Filipino dreams, The Real Bank re-introduces itself with its new face represented by its new logo that is centered on the "alibata" or "baybayin" script translation of the word "real" which now takes on the meaning of royalty and sovereignty. The "alibata" is the original Tagalog script used in the 16th century before the Spanish colonization. The Bank's name "Real" written in its alibata translation symbolizes the Bank's principle that there is value in our native Filipino roots. Enclosed in a royal seal and set over the vibrant colors of red, yellow and blue that symbolizes prosperity, friendship and warmth and royalty-- the new The Real Bank pays tribute to the Filipino heritage of true service based on a deeply rooted faith in Filipino values and the Filipino spirit.

With the commitment of providing service that is responsive to the Filipino's hope and dream for progress and prosperity, the new **The Real Bank** takes on definite steps and action to live up to this vision. Computerization of the Bank's lending operations, the on-line CASA operations and finally the introduction of the ATM operations now called **Real CASH** are evidences of the Bank's strong adherence to the principle of improving service.

As part of its re-launching activities, The Real Bank is also currently conducting a bankwide seminar on Corporate Identity Development. Ms. Teresita Birgos-Gutierrez is facilitating the 2-part seminar on Inside and Out Image and Comprehensive Presentation Skills.

The Real Bank Branch Network

Metro Manila Branches Anonas - Ground Floor Belmont Place, #5 Anonas St., Proj. 3, Quezon City • Broadway Centrum - Broadway Centrum Bldg., corner Aurora Blvd. & Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City • Fairview - Commonwealth Ave., Fairview, Quezon City • Makati - Makati Ave., cor Singian St., Makati City • Novaliches - #848 Quirino Highway, San Bartolome, Novaliches, Quezon City • Timog - Ground Floor President Tower, #81 Timog Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City **Rizal Branches** Antipolo - Circumferential Road, Antipolo City • Cainta - Ortigas Avenue Extension, Cainta, Rizal • Masinag - #108 Sumulong Highway, Mayamot, Antipolo City • San Mateo - Gen. Luna St. cor. M.H. del Pilar St., Dulong Bayan II, San Mateo, Rizal • Taytay - Unit 104, Manila East Arcade Bldg., Rizal Ave., Taytay, Rizal **Bulacan Branches** Balagtas - D&A Bldg. II, McArthur Highway, San Juan, Balagtas, Bulacan • Baliuag - Benigno Aquino Avenue, Baliuag, Bulacan • Guiguinto - Cagayan Valley Road, Sta. Cruz, Guiguinto, Bulacan • Malolos - Malolos Capital Grounds, Guinhawa, Malolos, Bulacan • Meycauayan - McArthur Highway, Calvario, Meycauayan, Bulacan • Plaridel - Cagayan Valley Road, Banga 1st, Plaridel, Bulacan **Batangas Branches** Batangas City - P. Burgos St., Batangas City • Lipa City - B. Morada St., Lipa City, Batangas **Cavite Branches** Bacoor - Aguinaldo Highway, Panapaan, Bacoor, Cavite • Dasmanhas - Pala-Pala, Dasmanhas, Cavite **Laguna Branches** Calamba - National Highway, Crossing, Calamba, Laguna • San Pedro - National Highway, San Pedro, Laguna • Sta. Rosa - Sta. Rosa Commercial Complex, Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna



The Real Bank Officers 2005

Board of Directors

Jose G. Araullo
Chairman of the Board

Alfredo S. Barretto
President

Jose L. Acuzar
Director

Atty. Marcial OT. Balgos
Director

Principal Officers

Edgardo O. Ignacio
Executive Vice President

Atty. Dionisio C. Hernandez
Senior Vice President/ Head-Legal

Nathaniel S. Aguilar
Senior Vice President/ Head-Branch Banking

Rene S. De Guzman
First Vice President/ Head- Loans

Reynaldo G. Monasterial
First Vice President/ Head-Controllershship

Raquel T. Cabawatan
First Vice President/ Head-Cash, Commercial, Treasury Operations

Anna Lissa S. Ochoa
First Vice President/ Head-Business Planning, Training and Marketing Services

Irenisa P. Layco
Vice President/ Head - Special Assets, Projects and Property Management

Aida M. Aquino
Vice President/ Head- Personnel

Hermingildo L. Caluag
Vice President/ Head - Acquired Assets

Pompeyo A. Claveria
Vice President/ Head- Internal Audit and Compliance Officer

Jeoffrey R. Tupas
Vice President/ Head- General Services

Leopoldo S. Muñoz
Vice President/ Area Head, Bulacan

Editha P. Mañago
Vice President/ Area Head, Rizal

Flordeliza F. Cruz
Vice President/ Area Head, Metro Manila

Esther C. Walde
Asst. Vice President/ Area Head, South Luzon

Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop: Developing Kids into Nation-Builders

Believing that the new vision of the new The Real Bank demands not only **commitment to provide better banking services, but also an active role in shaping our country's future**, the Bank launched on its 28th anniversary in 2004 its **advocacy campaign on saving for children, entitled "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop"**. This campaign is a **joint project of The Real Bank with the Department of Education** and aims at teaching the children the value of saving, thriftiness and the wise use of resources as an effective tool for success.



The campaign was piloted for the school year 2004-2005 in 18 selected schools in NCR, Region III and Region IV. The program includes classroom learning through a number of student materials carefully researched to suit the learning capacity of the targeted user-students. It also incorporates practical learning methods showing the common ways of saving. In this campaign, **Temyong Tipid, the official mascot of The Real Bank Savings Advocacy Campaign** is introduced as many children learn to adopt the values being taught by him.

prepared and equipped to become independent individuals, productive members of society and ultimately of our nation. Chairman Araullo himself believes that, "At an early age, children should already be taught the concept and significance of thriftiness and saving. It'll instill in their young minds a sense of discipline. They will learn to deny themselves material things that only bring short-term pleasure in exchange for something that will be of greater importance to them in the future."



The level of understanding of the value being taught is gauged with the holding of art contests where children give their own interpretation of what saving means to them. The contest was entitled **"Bata... Bata... Magsinop, Magpinta 2005"** and was open to all public and private schools in NCR, Regions III and IV. Using crayons and craypas as their medium, students illustrated their respective interpretation of the **theme "Pag-iimpok sa Pananaw ng mga Bata."** Prizes for the contest are savings accounts of varying amounts in The Real Bank branches. The program culminates with the children being given the chance to visit the Bank and understand its role in their respective communities.

As the "Bata... Bata... Mag-impok at Magsinop" Advocacy Campaign continues in its mission to inculcate the value of saving and thriftiness to their students, **The Real Bank hopes that more and more children will be better**

Real Kiddie Savers' Club: A Real Deal for Kids

The Real Bank has a great deal for thrifty kids out there! For a **minimum of one hundred pesos only (P100)**, kids can open their own savings account and be part of the **Real Kiddie Savers' Club**. Aside from the generous **5% interest per annum on Kiddie accounts with at least P500 Average Daily Balance (ADB)**, kids will not just be given special **kiddie passbooks but special gift items and incentives** as their deposit increases as well. This is to motivate the children to keep on saving and develop in them a discipline that will far exceed other success formulas. Yes! Joining The Real Bank's Real Kiddie Savers' Club is indeed a fun and exciting way for kids to learn the value of saving and thriftiness.

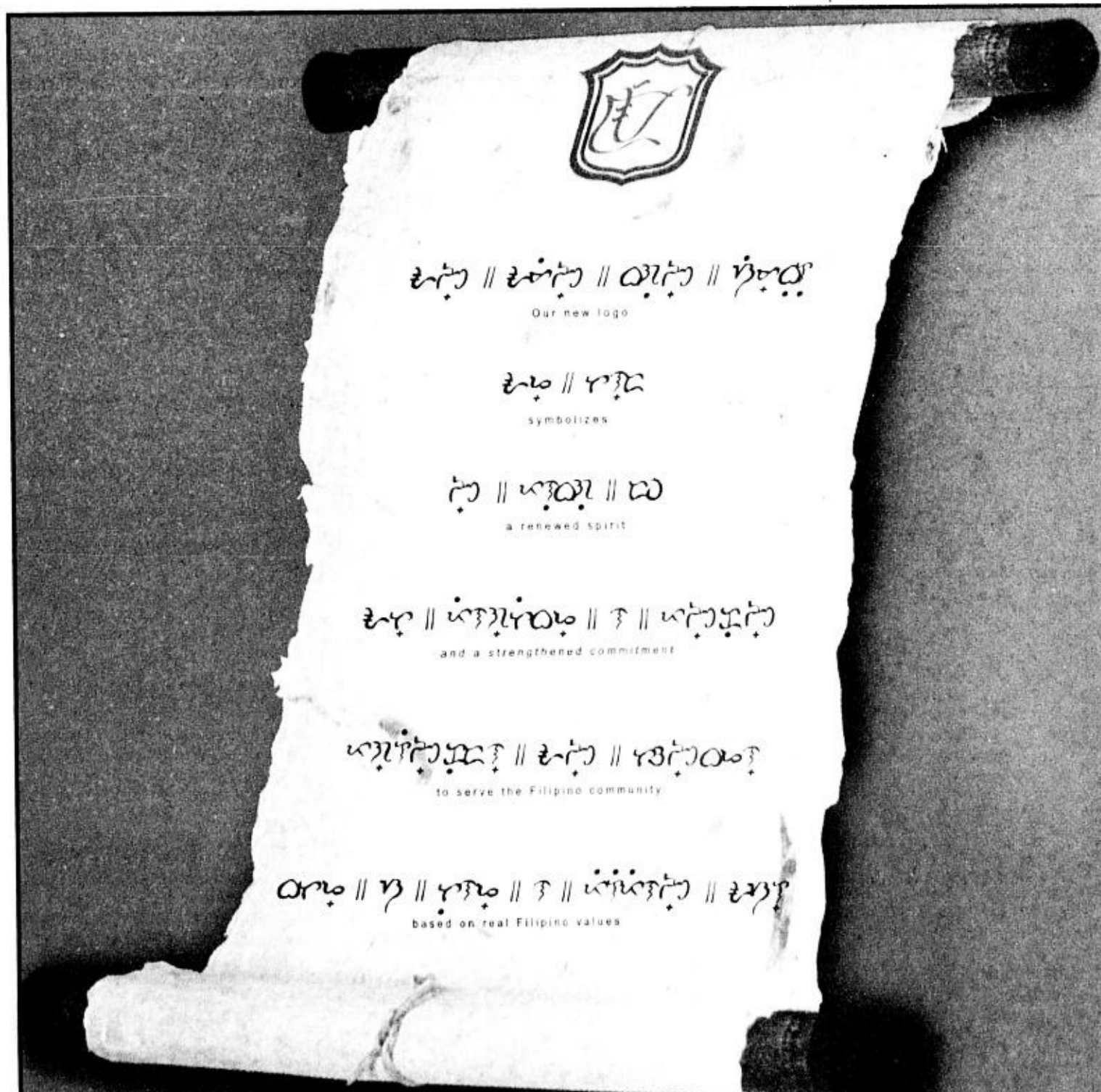


The Real CASH – The Real Bank's ATM Services

True to its dedication of improving its banking services, the new The Real Bank launches its very own **Real CASH**—the 24x7 ATM (automated teller machine) service through the Bancnet ATM network.

Real CASH is an interest-bearing ATM account (provided minimum required balance is maintained) that offers all the conveniences of Bancnet ATM services including, among others, fund transfers to and/or from The Real Bank accounts, checkbook requisition for ATM-Current account holders and bills payment facilities.

The Real Bank's Real CASH serves as the foundation of many other technological developments and advancements that it plans to pursue with the ultimate objective of providing its clientele with superior services they so well deserve.



A new look and a new logo for The Real Bank. It takes inspiration from time-honored Filipino values—real values such as frugality and thriftiness, care for our family's well-being and concern for our community. It takes pride in our uniquely Asian heritage of service—one that is royal, proactive, warm and efficient, the kind of service The Real Bank is committed to deliver. All these find expression in the bank's bright, tri-colored logo that makes use of the Alibata, the original Tagalog script used in the 16th century before the Spanish colonization—a royal seal enclosing the alibata or baybayin translation for the word REAL. With this new look and new logo, the Real Bank reaffirms a genuine, heartfelt pledge to work for the Filipino's future.

Upholding Filipino Values. Supporting Filipino Dreams.



The Real Bank

A Thrift Bank

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum Deposit Insurance for each depositor is P250,000, Chamber of Thrift Banks and **BancNet**

People, Events & Products

Mercury Drug: Celebrating 60 years of service to the nation

THIS 2005, Mercury Drug, the nation's leading drugstore, is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Reaffirming its corporate philosophy, Mercury Drug firmly believes in the concept of service as a total and full-time commitment. A commitment that genuinely cares for the people.

Mariano Que, from its humble beginnings in a pushcart in post-war Philippines to the present count of over 500 drugstores located as far north as Aparri in Cagayan Province to Gen. Santos in South Cotabato in the extreme south of the country, more than 60 of its branches are "Gising 24 Oras" drugstores. Its "customer-first" philosophy has remained the one constant in the company's resolve over the years to provide quality service and reliable medicines to the nation.

Mercury Drug has always been regarded as an innovator in the drug retailing industry - In 1948, it introduced the first motorized customer delivery service; in 1952, the 17-hour, 7-day a week drugstore service in selected branches in different areas; in 1963, the country's first self-service drugstore; in 1965, the 24-hour, 7-day a week service in different

strategic areas; in 1967, the first computerized temperature-controlled central warehouse; in 2000, the Suki Card, a customer value card was launched; and, in 2002, the birth of the "Information as Medicine" campaign which gave way to Mercury TV, the first in-store health information TV program.

Mercury Drug's commitment to its customers equals its commitment to its employees, now almost 8,000-strong. Its employees have compensation and benefit packages that are considered one of the best in the drug retailing industry. Frequent training and career development programs raise levels of competence and develop positive work values and prepare employees for productive careers.

In giving recognition to Mercury Drug employees, the Mercury Drug Founder, Mariano Que says, "We were lucky to employ loyal, dedicated and industrious Mercurians all along the way. I don't think we can manage this business without them."

Mercury Drug president Vivian Que Azcona who has taken over her father's responsibility as chief executive officer, ex-

presses the same sentiments for Mercury Drug employees. "Over the years, the company has not forgotten its source of strength. The company has always believed that its employees are its key resource for attaining its corporate goals and objectives."

Azcona also pays tribute to Mercury Drug's business partners through the years who have helped Mercury Drug grow and achieve business success.

The company has been in the forefront of this value-based, people oriented approach to human resource management, going a long way in building on its employee-centered programs which earned the company the "Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) Employer of the Year Award" in 1996.

As a company grows, so as its reach. The company's social responsibility programs provide employees opportunities to help the general public and to fulfill their individual interest to be of value to society. Mercury Drug carries out regular activities that help build stronger and closer relations with its local community. The company with the Philippine Busi-

ness for Social Progress (PBSP) where it is one of the founding members, has an Artesian Well Program for impoverished communities without access to potable water. The company also has a scholarship program for deserving students who wish to pursue a career in Pharmacy and an Academic Recognition Program where it aims to honor tomorrow's leaders today. Annually, "Operation Bigay Lunas" a simultaneous one-day free clinic providing free medical consultations and medicines to the less fortunate nationwide, is conducted. In 2004, the "Operation Bigay Lunas" benefited at least 100,000 indigents in 53 different cities and municipalities nationwide. Now on its seventh year and in celebration of its 60th anniversary, the Operation Bigay Lunas will be held in 60 sites nationwide.

On top of this, Mercury Drug has set-up its own disaster response center, which continues to give donations to victims of calamities and to different charitable institutions.

Over the past 60 years, Mercury Drug has received numerous awards and citations from various sectors, both from gov-

ernment and private organizations, the most recent of which are: The "Marketing Company of the Year" at the 2004 Agora Award given by the Philippine Marketing Association and The "2004 Outstanding Filipino Retailers" grand award given by the Philippine Retailers Association. In 2004, Mercury Drug placed 101st in Retail Asia Magazine's first-ever Retail-Asia Pacific Top 500 Retail Companies. It ranked 2nd in the "Top 10 Retailing Companies in the Philippines" and the 5th Over-all Retailing Companies in terms of format. Mercury Drug was adjudged as the only Philippine retailer in the category. The company has consistently been among the Top 20 firms in terms of revenue in the Securities and Exchange Commission's "Philippines Top 5000 Corporations". Also, in the "Annual Review 200: Asia's Leading Companies" survey done by the Far Eastern Economic Review, Mercury Drug ranked no. 8 in 2003, no. 6 in 2002, no. 7 in 2001 and no. 6 in 2000.

Mercury Drug has certainly attained and transcended its principal credo of total service: "To serve you, to have what you want, when you want it."

Safety is key to summer travel rush, says NN official

SUMMER's around the corner, and Negros Navigation Inc (Nenaco) is reiterating its commitment to passenger travel security through an intensive safety campaign.

"We are 101 percent committed to our passengers' safety and security," says Rey Fuentes, Nenaco's VP for marketing/passenger sales. "Every time our vessels leave the ports, we make sure everything is in proper working order."

One of the oldest domestic shipping companies in the Philippines, Nenaco's International Safety Management (ISM) code certification was recently renewed for another five years by the Marina Industry Authority (Marina).

It was also the recipient of the "Healthiest Port Award" given last year by the Department of Health based on the results of a surprise inspection by Manila City Health Inspectors of Nenaco's water, lighting, sanitation and fire and passenger safety at its Pier 2 terminal.

According to Captain Alvin Aguilon, Nenaco ship board training director, long before security became a global issue, the company already made it a policy to tackle ship safety issues as soon as passengers show up at the gate.

Last year, the company, in partnership with the Dangerous Drugs Board and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, launched the "Barkada Kontra Droga sa Nenaco" campaign in support of the government drive against illegal drugs.

Part of the campaign is a seven point program stressing on strict security measures in all Nenaco vessels, ports and offices. Upon arrival, passengers and cargos go through several routine checks for dangerous items like illegal drugs, balloons or fan knives and stray bullets. A safety inspection team equipped with metal detectors and trained canine hounds go through all baggage brought on board by passengers. Boarding passes are double checked to prevent stowaways from making it onboard. Laptop batteries are even confiscated. Trained staff is also on hand to check luggages manually several times before a ship leaves the port.

"We're very proactive," says this eight-year marine veteran of the company's approach to security issues. "Parang airport security; very stringent talaga kami."

He still remembers the time when a military soldier on leave tried to bring in grenade ammunition to the ship. "It was immediately confiscated of course, as are knives, pointed objects, bomb components and even firecrackers since the latter is highly combustible," says Capt. Aguilon. Handguns are also deposited at the front office.

Meanwhile, ship officers go through a pre-departure checklist prior to sailing to make sure radars and other navigational equipment, as well as lifesaving and fire fighting devices are in excellent condition.

The 'lashing' or tying of the cargos is also double-checked. "This is very important because if they are not secured properly, strong waves and strong winds can mean rolling cargos, which can translate to a listing vessel," he notes.

Listing is defined as the "leaning of a vessel to one side caused by shifting cargo or misplaced gear". Once a ship tips to one side, it can affect the stability of a boat, and even cause it to capsize.

Once a trip is underway, uniformed sea marshals from the Philippine Coast Guard roam the different sections of the ship on a 24-hour shift. Boat tickets are also randomly inspected to weed out stowaways and armed plainclothes Nenaco security staff check on passengers regularly.

Capt. Aguilon also takes pride on the fact that Nenaco's senior ship officers are adept at crises management. "Passengers can create panic; and if you don't have training, pueheng mapabayaan and this can result to a stampede," he says.

Indeed with Nenaco's pledge to prioritize the welfare of its passengers, its no surprise that it was chosen as the Top Shipping Company in the Top Services category at the 2004 National Consumers Quality Awards sponsored by the National Consumers Affairs Foundation.

And as temperature rises and the beaches beckons, the heat is on for summer trekkers to travel not just in style, but safely as well.



BEER-DRINKING CONTEST AT INQUEST LAUNCH

Purple Pear Bar (a.k.a. Absinth) owner Cynthia Lucero (right) distributes consolation prizes care of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GSM Blue to participants of a beer-drinking contest held during the launch of the newspaper's INQuest Adventure at Absinth Bar in Greenbelt 3, Makati City. INQuest Adventure-a game that will use print and broadcast media, mobile SMS and online websites as it progresses-is the Inquirer's most ambitious marketing

promotions project. It's a whodunit mystery that starts with the murder of Jerson Morales, a loved-by-all 28-year-old party-goer, that immediately incriminates six people with different interests and personalities. The multi-level media game's participants will attempt to solve the mystery based on clues provided by print ads, article clues and www.inquestor.com. With her are (from left) Barton Villa, Jerson Morales and an avid bar regular.



JS UNITRADE HOLDS FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

JS Unitrade Merchandise Inc, the company responsible in providing best value products to Filipino families whose popular brands include Prokids Premium Baby Diapers, EQ Dry and EQ Baby Diapers, Dr. P Adult Diapers, and Charmee Feminine Protection products, recently held a Fellowship Night at the Holiday Inn, Galleria Manila in honor of their distributors nationwide. The event was high-

lighted with a recognition program for distributors and Unitrade sales managers' outstanding performances for year 2004. In photo are JS Unitrade's top executives (from left): Eugene C. Go, vice president for marketing; Samuel L. Po, president and CEO; guest sexy actress Aubrey Miles; Ed Bargan, distributor development manager, and Tata Albert, vice president for sales.

USJ-R 12th Grand Alumni Homecoming

The University of San Jose-Recoletos will be holding its 12th Grand Alumni Homecoming for all its engineering graduates on March 6, at the USJ-R Main Campus, in Magallanes Street, Cebu City. For details, one may call the USJ-R Engineering Department at (032)253-7900 local 291 and look for engineering dean Vangie Evangelista. Or call the following: Vic Vosotros, alumni president (0917-3206601); Bebot Salazar, secretary (0917-3253462); Eddie Diva, publicity/promotion (0922-8062050/(032)-2344589).

Wedding Expo Philippines

WEDDING caterers take center stage in Wedding Expo Philippines on March 5 to 6, at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. From elegant banquet set-ups and lavish reception decors to simple, yet tasteful styling to complement sumptuous wedding menus, the Philippines' top food caterers will present their best in the latest styles and newest trends on how to prepare a feast for wedding parties. For further inquiries, call Themes & Motifs, the event's producer and organizer at 371-7983/410-0032/635-3267 or visit www.themesmotifs.com.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID # 05-07

The PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL TRADING CORPORATION Bids & Awards Committee (PITC-BAC) invites local manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors & traders of pharmaceutical products who can meet the following minimum requirements for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of various locally manufactured or sourced medicines:

- In the Pharmaceutical business for at least three (3) years and still in operation
- With Stockholders' Equity or Capital Account of at least P5 Million as of December 31, 2003 or December 31, 2004.
- Must have valid License to Operate (LTO) issued by the Bureau of Food & Drugs (BFAD) as Drug Manufacturer/Distributor/Wholesaler/Trader
- Must have a valid Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) issued by BFAD for each product offered
- If a distributor, must submit Certificate(s) of Exclusive Distributorship issued by the manufacturer, owner or trader for the specific products offered.

Estimated budget is FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P500 Million)

Bid documents will be available for issuance during office hours starting March 2, 2005 until March 14, 2005, weekdays only, from the BAC Secretariat c/o Mrs. Helen R. Muncal at the 4th Floor of the NDC Building, 116 Tordesillas St. Salcedo Village, Makati City after payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P5,500.00). However, PITC-accredited pharmaceutical suppliers who have been issued Accreditation Certificates by PITC as of March 2, 2005 shall be provided with the bid documents at a minimal cost of P200.00.

A Pre-Bid conference is scheduled on March 16, 2005 at 10:00AM at the Penthouse of NDC Building. Bidders may submit their queries, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat through Fax Nos. 892-2021/892-2054 not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

Only bid documents of bidders who participated in the pre-bid conference will be accepted and opened in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives on March 30, 2005 at 9:00 AM, Penthouse, NDC Building.

The particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations.

PITC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, waive any defects or informalities therein and/or accept the offer's most advantageous and beneficial to the government. Further, the PITC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the prospective bidders for any expenses incurred in the processing of their eligibility to bid and/or in the preparation of the bid.

(SGD) MARLENE R. LOPEZ
Chair, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI- Feb 26, 27 & March 5, 2005)

Isuzu Crosswind promo

ISUZU Philippines Corp (IPC) unleashes another fabulous promo for its special Crosswind clientele beginning Feb. 1 up to March 31. Dubbed as "Isuzu Crosswind Drive Proud & Shop Wild Blowout", this fantastic deal gives all buyers of any Crosswind variant during the promo period - whether through outright cash or financing - as much as P20,000 worth of SM gift certificates and Isuzu Joe bobble heads (available until supplies last). Visit your nearest Isuzu dealership now.



Thrift banks hold national convention

THE CHAMBER of Thrift Banks (CTB), the umbrella organization of the country's 89 thrift banks, will celebrate Thrift Banking Week with a convention from March 6 to 12 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City. The convention theme, "Responding to the Challenge of National Development", underscores the social dimension of the mandate of thrift banks particularly in helping spur the Philippine economy.

E. Excel celebrates Panabenga festival

E. EXCEL joins the Panabenga flower festival to educate people on how to nourish the body to remain healthy and effectively prevent illness. Visit E. Excel's Nutritional Immunology exhibit at the lower, ground floor (atrium side), SM City Baguio from Feb. 28 to March 6, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, visit its Baguio branch at the 4th floor BPI Bldg, 136 Session Road, Baguio City, or call (074)443-8387.

Concert at the Park's Sunday feature

"PHILIPPINE Percussions" opens Concert at the Park's "Merry March 2005" this Sunday, starting at 6 p.m. at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium in Rizal Park Manila. The program features Filipino artists, namely Bayang Barrios, Bo Razon and Tropikasya, AirDance, Karangahan Dancers and the La Carlota City Festival Drumbeaters. It is aired on NBN-4 on Mondays at 10 p.m. and Sundays at 5 p.m. Admission is free.

Picpa, IBP hold 'Seminar on Tax Updates'

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) through the Committee on Taxation invites you to attend a Seminar on Tax Updates to be held on March 7, at the Skytop Hotel International Manila, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Resource Speakers are: Hon. Juanito C. Castañeda and Dr. Ruperto P. Somera. Topics to be discussed are the Creation of Court of Tax Appeals under RA 9282 and Procedures. Latest Jurisprudence and Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) decisions, Executive Order No. 399 and Latest Revenue Regulation and other BIR issuances. For more information and reservation, call Beth Pagulo or Nancy Capangpangan at 7235467 or 7230691 to 93.

ProductFILES

When you want it red give way to Franzia



FRANZIA known as "America's best selling wine" has two variants, the Franzia Chilliabre Red and the Franzia California Red. Franzia California Red is a smooth, easy to enjoy, medium bodied red wine. It is recommended to have for dinner fare such as beef, chicken, pork and pasta. Franzia Chilliabre Red is an easy to drink red wine. Not as dry as traditional red wine, you can serve it chilled or poured over ice. Whichever variant you end up with, Franzia will certainly add a touch of romance to your dinner.



JEA STEEL RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION

In recognition of its strong commitment to consistently deliver quality, environment friendly steel products, JEA Steel Industries Inc, a market leader and pioneer in the manufacture of light metal frames was recently certified under the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System at an awarding and thanksgiving ceremony held on Feb. 19, at the Penthouse, Jockey

Building, Commonwealth, Quezon City. Proudly displaying their ISO seal of approval are the organization's key officers (from left): Reynaldo A. Monzon (VP- marketing and operations, JEA Steel); Renato V. Navarrete (managing director, Certification Int'l Phils Inc); Juan T. Ng (president/owner, JEA Steel) and Ruben S. Ong (corporate secretary/owner, JEA Steel).



DUDUT AND MIKEE AT MONGOLIAN QUICK STOP

Guest of honor, Rep. Dodot Jaworski and his wife, Mikee Coljuangco-Jaworski cut the ceremonial ribbon during the opening of Mongolian Quick Stop's fourth outlet at level 1 East Wing, in front of the water fountain of Robinson's Galleria Ortigas cor Edsa,

Quezon City last Feb. 18. Behind them are (from left): Jun Pineda and Susan Leveriza, owners and directors of the Mongolian Quick Stop. Mongolian Quick Stop offers you a choice of great eat-all-you can Mongolian dishes and tasty barbecued treats.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY

143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kalliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

104 years

SATURDAY,
MARCH 5, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B 9

OBITUARIES

HERITAGE PARK
Arlington East Garden
Chapels

"The newest and most modern Funeral Home & Crematory in the country!"

Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38
Direct Line: (632) 845-2440

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones,
the following establishments can help you.

METRO MANILA

LAS PIÑAS

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas;
Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024

MAKATI

DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City;
Tel. 894-5932 to 34

FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
865 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City;
Tels. 890-3556; 899-8191

LOYOLA MEMORIAL CHAPELS
EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe,
Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19

MALABED FUNERAL SERVICE
3-A Coronado St., Guadalupe Viejo,
Makati City; Tel. 890-63-18

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City;
Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223

ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI
PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City;
Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284

MALABON

FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon,
Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963; 2813034; 2810522

MANDALUYONG

SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City;
Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044

MANILA

DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan
St., Manuguit, Manila
Tels. 712-5102; 741-5125; 741-5133;
Fax No. 711-3064

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
1501 C.M. Recto Ave. cor. T. Mapua,
Manila;
Tels. 711-6931 to 35; 732-4795; 732-2827

POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
2141 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tel. Nos. 254-0867; 254-0839

ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St.,
Sampaloc, Manila;
Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772

UNIVERSAL FUNERAL SERVICE &
MEMORIAL CHAPELS
2028 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila;
Tels. 493-4458; 493-4540

WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila;
Tel. 302-5447

MARIKINA

ERIC SANTIAGO MEMORIAL CHAPELS
26 Bayanbayan Ave., Concepcion I, Marikina
City; Tels. 942-6044; 475-1177

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
9 V. Gomez & 13 V. Gomez St.,
San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 846-1725 or 846-1730

LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPELS &
CREMATORY SERVICES
Loyola Memorial Park, A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Tahong, Marikina City
Tels. 941-3195 to 98; 941-3676;
Telefax 941-3577

PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 846-1725; 846-1730

PARAÑAQUE

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat Rd., Sucat,
Parañaque City;
Tels. 825-1296; 825-1291; Telefax: 825-1314

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque;
Tels. 820-1592; 825-9947; 825-8635

LINCOLN MEMORIAL SERVICES, INC.
Ground Floor, JEMP Bldg., J. Cabarrus cor.
Monserrat Sts., Phase I, BF Commercial
Center, Parañaque, Metro Manila

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat,
Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9882; (0915) 712-1220

PASAY

RIZAL FUNERAL HOMES
438 Cementina St., Pasay City;
Tels. 831-1204

VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Amal St.,
Pasay City;
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846;
843-1801; 845-4836

PASIG

ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN
CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave.,
San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609
Telefax 641-1760

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig
City; Tels. 641-7908; 641-1735

QUEZON CITY

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 715-1025; 715-1031; 715-1027

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#23 Pato St., Project 2, Quezon City;
Tel. 434-3258

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kalliraya St.,
Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001;
743-6502 or 05

NACIONAL MEMORIAL HOMES
264 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City;
Tels. 713-5231 to 35; 714-0867; 714-0868

ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City;
Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87

TAGUIG-PATEROS

FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
M. Almada St., Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602

GARDEN OF MEMORIES MEMORIAL PARK
Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila;
Tels. 642-6181 to 82

HERITAGE PARK
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels. (DL) 845-2341 to 42;
(TL) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 110/112

PROVINCIAL

ALBAY

LIGNON HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
Buglong Road, Legaspi City;
Tels. (052) 820-0188; 0917-2074152

BACOLOD

ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Ground Flr. Rolling Hills Chapel,
27th-Lacson St., Mandalagan,
Bacolod City; Tel. 433-7132

BAGUIO

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilan Rd., Baguio City;
Tel. (074) 443-3337; (074) 442-3117

BATAAN

SANTUARIO GARDEN & CHAPELS
Talisay Road, Balanga City, Bataan
Tels. (047) 2370643 • 7911766

BULACAN

FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 784-0281; 678-0266;
(0917) 895-0603

CAVITE

FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675

LA FUNERARIA SAPINOSO
G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite;
Tels. (046) 471-3386; (046) 471-4417;
(046) 571-1978

CEBU

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City;
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192

CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.

Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street,
Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601

DAVAO

COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL
HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos,
Davao City;
Tels. (082) 227-1201; 227-1258

ILOCOS

LA FUNERARIA LAWRENCE BAQUIRAN
#27 Crisologo St., Vigan, Ilocos Sur;
Tel. 722-2730;
Cell (0917) 5680136; (0917) 5680145

LAGUNA

SAN RAMON FUNERAL HOMES
2020 Brgy. Dila, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tels. (049) 562-1668; 800-2914
Fax (049) 531-4989

ZUASOLA FUNERAL HOMES
Brgy. Del Remedio,
San Pablo City, Laguna
Tels. (049) 837-5652; 531-4142;
Cel. No. (0917) 5018963

PAMPANGA

FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St.,
Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (049) 888-2959; (045) 322-5247

RIZAL

OUR LADY OF PEACE MEMORIAL PARK
CHAPEL & SERVICES, INC.
No. 6 Carigma St., Antipolo City 1870
Tel. No. 697-0782; 697-0026;
650-7426; Fax: 697-2764

F. SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
Guinang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal;
Tels. 849-5948; 942-4460

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Third Level, Unishoppes Complex, Quezon
Ave., Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711; 651-0737

MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos Hwy., Antipolo, Rizal;
Tels. 845-1855

ZAMBALES

DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605; (047) 811-1086;
(047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014

OLONGAPO MEMORIAL PARK
Del Rosario St., Tabacuhan,
Sta. Rita, Olongapo
Tel. No. (047) 223-1692



"To do your will is my delight; my God,
your law is my heart".

Psalm 40:9



GLORIA MIJARES QUIMPO

Peacefully joined our Creator and our Papa
on March 3, 2005 at the age of 87.

Her loving children and children-in-law Niña and Gil, Ramon Jr.,
Roselle and Selmar, Regle and Rudy, Boy and Susan (+),
Rod and Loy; grandchildren; great grandchildren; sisters:
Meling (+), Cella (+), Nena (+), Estela, Minia and Tesing; brothers
Bert (+), Franching (+), Gley (+) and Tomas (+), and brothers-in-
law Badong (+), Noling (+), Inggoy, Nanding,
Ely (+), Eddie (+), and Mati; sisters-in-law Plining, Venice, Edith
and Violet; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray
for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the National Shrine of Sacred Heart,
San Antonio Village, Makati City until Saturday evening March
5, 2005.

Mama Gloring's remains will be flown to Kalibo, Aklan on
Sunday, March 6, 2005.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at Milagrosa
Cemetery, Kalibo, Aklan.

DEATH NOTICE

SOLEDAD BELTRAN REYES

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 28, 2005
at the age of 88.

Her remains lie in state at Marahan Dos, Alfonso, Cavite
Interment will be on Saturday March 5, 2005 at 3 P.M.

"For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only begotten Son, that
whoever believes in Him shall not
perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO OTHER COMPANIES

AVANT TECHNOLOGIES INC. would
like to notify other companies and the
general public that all forms of
communications written in behalf of
Avant such as certifications, requests,
specially **certifications of
employment**, must bear the company
seal AND the signature of either the
President or the Vice President of
Avant. Note that Avant's certification
of employment for employment
purposes follows a particular format
that contains the individual's duties
and performance rating; otherwise
such documents are to be considered
as not valid. The company cannot be
held liable in any manner in the event
of any untoward incident arising from
such misrepresentations. Thank you.

(PDI - March 5, 2005)

**JOB
Market**
ONLINE

VISIT US AT:
www.jobmarketonline.com

Employers to tackle critical labor and industrial relations issues

EMPLOYERS are slated to tackle
critical labor and industrial
relations issues confronting the
nation today - the proposed P125
across-the-board wage increase,
proposals to ban or even
'criminalize' all forms of job
contracting, including outsourcing,
and the continuing gridlock in
dispute settlement. The Employers
Confederation of the Philippines
(Ecop) has organized the Seminar-
Workshop Series on Labor Market
Policy Reforms starting with
Module 1 on the P125 across-the-
board increase. This is scheduled
on March 30, at Dusit Hotel, Makati

PMAP holds seminars/workshops

THE PERSONNEL Management
Association of the Philippines is
sponsoring a seminar on Coaching
and Counseling which will be held
on March 7 to 8. Registration fee is
P4,700 for PMAP Members and
P6,200 for Non PMAP Members. A
three-day workshop on Competency-
based Recruitment and
Selection is scheduled on March 9
to 11. Registration fee is P7,700 for
PMAP Members and P9,200 for Non
PMAP Members. The program
entitled Group Dynamics and

City. Module 2 set on April 30, at
the RCBC Plaza, Makati City will
examine whether the nation can
afford legislative reforms - such as
naming or even criminalizing all
forms of job contracting, including
outsourcing. Module 3, to be
conducted on June 29, at the RCBC
Plaza, Makati City, seeks to break
the gridlock in dispute settlement.
It will focus on reforms in the labor
adjudicatory system by identifying
weaknesses in the dispute settle-
ment system (laws, rules, proce-
dures and practices). At the same
time, the forum will delve on the
needed realistic reform measures.

Teambuilding Techniques is
scheduled on March 14 to 15.
Registration fee is P5,600 for PMAP
Members and P7,100 for Non PMAP
Center. All programs will be held at
PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City.
For reservations, please contact The
Human Resource Management
Development Center at telephone
numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or
726-1592; email address:
maylene.gatdula@pmap.org.ph or
you may visit the website:
www.pmap.org.ph

EMBASSY of the ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT MANILA

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Egyptian Embassy in Manila, announces the need for purchasing 2
new buildings in Makati City as a residence for Ambassador and the Embassy.
General Description are as follows:

For the residence: Lot size between 1000-1500 square meters, building
size 800-1000 square meter, located either in Dasmariñas Village, North or
South Forbes Park. Reception areas- salons- dining rooms- master
bedroom- 3 bedrooms- service quarters-living rooms-kitchen-storage-
bathrooms. (General description of the premises and facilities is also required)

For the Embassy: Lot size between 800-1000 square meters, building size
600-700 square meter in Dasmariñas Village. Reception areas for visitors-
offices spaces (for ambassador and staff) multi purpose hall, bathrooms,
kitchenettes, staircases, etc. It is also required that the building should be
seismic upgraded.

For more information and submissions of offers, contact the Egyptian
Embassy at: 2229 Paraiso corner Banyan St. Dasmariñas Village, Makati.
Tel no.: 8439220 or 8439232. Offers shall be submitted within 20 days from
the date of announcement.

(PDI - March 5, 2005)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee
(BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

CONTRACT FOR SECURITY SERVICES
Approved Budget for the Contract - P4,800,000.00
Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements	March 7, 2005 - March 18, 2005 7:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission of Eligibility Requirements	March 21 - 23, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	April 4 - 6, 2005 for a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	April 12, 2005 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Bid Envelopes	April 20, 2005 9:00 A.M. Social Hall, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and
Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provision of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules
and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.
The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for
any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.
The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informally therein or
accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the
government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - February 28 & March 5, 2005)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY
NDA Bldg., BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue
1100 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. (632) 926-0733 to 36 / Telefax: (632) 926-8847
E-mail: buha@nda.com / E-mail: dairynda@mozcom.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY (NDA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC),
invites sealed written tenders for the supply and delivery of:

- Five Hundred (500) head of Imported Pregnant Holstein x Sahiwal/Bos Indicus Cross
Breed Dairy Heifers:
 - Having Holstein blood composition of 50-75%
 - With available Breeding and Three Generation Pedigree Records
 - In calf with offspring having Holstein blood composition of 62.5%
 - Covered with the necessary veterinary and feed supplies during in-transit to and
quarantine period in the Philippines such as the following:
 - 20 tons of Baled Hay (22kg/bale)
 - 5 tons of Pelletized Feed Concentrate
 - 100 liters Mineral Mix in 5 liter packs or its equivalent
 - 150 units of CIDR
 - 30 vials of Imzeal or Imidocarb (100ml/vial or its equivalent)
 - 5 containers of Baycol (20 liters/container or its equivalent, with applicator
and backpack)

with an Approved Budget for the supply and delivery of dairy heifers including veterinary
supplies amounting to THIRTY SIX MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P36,750,000.00) sourced from Section 416 (b) project and the NDA Animal Fund.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference/
s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent
provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the
Government Procurement Reform Act.

The tenderers shall be required to submit until March 11, 2005, the following documents for
pre-qualification:

- Certified list of related contracts ongoing and completed for the past five (5) years including quantity
and specifications name of client with telephone numbers, date of contract and project cost.
- Articles of Incorporation or Partnership
- Audited Financial Statement for the current and previous year
- Latest Income and Business Tax Returns duly stamped and received by the Bureau of
Internal Revenue, and duly validated with the tax payments made (per EO 398 dated
January 12, 2005)
- Tax clearance from the Bureau of Internal Revenue (per EO 398 dated January 12, 2005)
- Business license/registration
- Authority of the Local Representative, if any
- Company Profile

Distribution of Tender Documents for the supply and delivery of dairy animals including veterinary
supplies may be obtained by pre-qualified Tenderers from the NDA BAC Secretariat from March 03-
11, 2005 upon payment of US One Hundred Dollars (US\$100.00) A Pre-Bid Conference for
Qualified Tenderers shall be conducted on March 14, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. and the Opening of Bids
shall be held on March 28, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. Sealed bids in duplicate shall be received at the NDA
BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, NDA Bldg., BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

NDA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMO, MAKATI CITY
 897-8425 (Direct) 897-8808 (Toll-free)
 G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
 8114361 8114370 8114012 Fax 8925570
 ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
 912-9008-11 Fax 912-9011
 SH MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
 6350219 6872354 6872366 Fax 6350220
 G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
 5273142 5224406 5276357 Fax 5280213
 ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
 8424503 8506465 Fax 8506465
 e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

RATE

P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of B-VAT)

DEADLINE

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Monday to Sunday
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE	REAL ESTATE FOR SALE	REAL ESTATE FOR RENT	TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE
PERSONAL	PERSONAL	HOUSE & LOT	HOUSE & LOT	HOUSE & LOT	CONDO/TOWNHOUSE	CONDO/TOWNHOUSE	APARTMENT	CARS

CONSULTING SERVICES CONSULTING SERVICES QUEZON CITY QUEZON CITY QUEZON CITY QUEZON CITY QUEZON CITY MANILA NISSAN

IMMIGRATION AUSTRALIA

ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA

Registered Migration Agent-MARN 0002606
 Tel. No. (02) 931-4046 or (02) 951-0180
 Cell Phone - 0915-4013817
 Email: elpidioj@tpg.com.au

MEDICAL HOUSEHOLD

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
 EX. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
 ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
 15 Annapolis Greenhills
 Call 7276124 - 25 9am-7pm

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAIDS 4109268
 DIRECT MAIDS, YAYA, MOWIE 7289060
 Good Maid Yaya Boy 421-4652

GARMA CLINIC VD SPECIALIST

VD GONORRHEA, WARTS
 SYPHILIS, AIDS, HERPES
 CHILDREN, ADULT CONSUMPTION
 Painless, Bloodless
SKIN DISEASES
 BOILERS, WUMPS
 COMPLETE LABORATORY
 Garma Bldg., No. 8 Purdue St.,
 Cubao, Q.C.
 OPEN 8 AM to 6 PM MON. to FRI.
 TEL. NO. 4392706/9139474

PERSONAL CONSTRUCTION/DESIGN

Build/Design/Renovate
 Hi-tech&Fast 0920-6382331

HEALTH/FITNESS

Nose & Breast Surgery/Lipo
 8923731 Mon-Fri 9-6 pm

MASSAGE

02-3233269 Male Factor
 AL MALE MASSEUR 8535399
 Alternative Therapy 8327363

ASK BELL MALE MASSEUR

(0921)5364794

BEAUTIE'S MESSAGE

MLA-857973 Cebu: (032) 2562187
 Candy 8971506/09212085309
 Karisma Massage 4215996

MACHO MEN MESSAGE

MLA-4587993 Cebu: (032) 2591869

MALE MESSAGE

0920-9064273

MALE/F 09192714842 BEAN

MESSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MR. UNIVERSE MESSAGE

1157 Quezon Ave., 410-1259
 ★ Mr BODY PHYSIQUE ★
 11A Kamias QC 4350078

MY GUYZ 0927-4693728

RELAXING MESSAGE 8978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-769278

THERAPEUTIC MESSAGE 752-0018

Vermont Place 562-9746

REFLEXOLOGY

Field of Dreams M/F 4160811
 ★★Feels Good 4127758★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8100151

MILLENNIUM M/F 9347633

WEDDING PLANNER

Affordable, Elegant
 Bridal/Debut Gowns
 943-9859 Ms. Keh

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A/A MAID & YAYA 4386020

ANGEL MAIDS 4213253
 Best Driver Maid 4547542

ONE VERMONT EXECUTIVE PLACE

Only 10 Distinctly Design Units Left!!!

OPEN HOUSE Saturday & Sunday



Summer Promo*

- * RENT to OWN
- * 10% DP move-in
- * As low as P 28,218.75
- * DP at 0% Interest payable in 3 Years*

Ateneo Riverbank
 Marcos Hi-Way
 LRT2 Sta. Lucia East Mall
 C-5 to Makati
 Macro
 One Vermont
 To Masinag... To Antipolo
 Fillinvest Homes East

SINGLE DETACHED UNITS READY FOR OCCUPANCY

Near Ateneo * Miriam * UP

Contact Us
 The Marketing Arm:
FMPNI
PROPERTY NETWORK INC.
 Tel: 668-2126 *7276915*
 09175226950
 Email: fmpni@yahoo.com

OWNER/ DEVELOPER :
JELP REAL ESTATE DEV. CORP.
 Mobile No. 0917-5172325
 HLURB License to Sell No. 06232
 WELCOME BROKERS

RIZAL CONDO/TOWNHOUSE CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

MANILA MAKATI

Own A Vacation Resort
 Condo Also Lots Nr Fort
 Ayala Mkt 2-4BR/1PM-P4M
 Use Pag-Ibig Bnk Rent 2 Own
 09178221107

RENT 2 OWN B-NEW CONDO

2-4BR Finished, P127 mo.
 09152728898 / 0917-7469270

RENT 2 OWN CONDO Resort!

2BR P127 RFO 0922-808655

RESORT CONDO 2-4BR

Global CT, N. Fort 1.0M up, RFO
 Comp1 Amen's RENTOWN &
 PG-IBG FIN. 09206348545

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT BnewTmshse
 4stry/3br/3b/grge/mdsrn/deck
 P3.610M up 8903461

PASIG

GALERIA CORP. CTR 107m²
 FF 4.8M 8873372; 09178102963

VVERDE 3BR 2M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

3BR CONDO 2BATHRM EDSA
 TUAZON NEAR MRT 2.4m w/
 PRKG-LOT 300SM W/GOLF
 SHARE 1.4m 0917-8141972

BATANGAS

Nr Univ of Batangas
 400m² 0910-8932975

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m²

P2,284m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
 P165m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DASMARINAS CAVITE Hi-way
 46,093 m² Commerce
 Ave.1,668m² cor. Lot Alabang
 8 0 7 9 4 9 0

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m²

P2,900m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m²

P6,020m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m²

P5,750m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARLES DASHA nr SM

37m² P2,560m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

JUBILEE VILLAS

Celebrate Life Create Happy Memories

Top Quality Townhouses
 2 or 3 bedrooms, attic,
 living room with powder
 room, dining room,
 kitchen, 2 T&B, maid's
 room w/T&B, laundry/
 storage area, 1 or 2-car
 garage, Overhead Water
 Tank, swimming pool
 LA: 64 -70 sqm
 GFA: 135 sqm. approx
 INDIVIDUAL LOT TITLE

19 units SOLD OUT / 4 units
 READY FOR OCCUPANCY

Our prices are HALF the usual condominium prices.
 Easy payment terms *Discount for cash sale
 Bank/In-House Financing available for qualified buyers
 We will customize your payment terms.
 Licensed Brokers are welcomed.
 Come & view our model unit
 90 Banlat Road, Tandang Sora, Quezon City

Exclusive Marketing Manager
ZITRO REAL ESTATE
 For inquiries, please call
 818-2781 / 751-5472
 0919-6745430
 Email: jubilee@info.com.ph
 www.jubileevillas.com
 HLURB License #04012

SAN JUAN LOT

RUSH SALE CONDO UNIT
 P24M w/ 2 Bedrooms Toilet &
 Bath at QUADRILLON MAN-
 SION M. Paterno St. & N.
 Domingo, San Juan. Call
 Reynold CP/ 09174327579

OTHER AREAS

CANYON WOODS
 Ridge Condo Ground Breaking Sunday
 1br-3br w/PM & Up Lots 51rs 0%mt.
 Divine 0918-9377715
 or (02) 531-2005 Avail of Big Disc.

VARIED AREAS

CTBANK 284m² w/ pkg ALPHA
 Salcedo 63m² pkg PET PLANS
 EDSA, Units
 Only buyers best offers T-
 8 0 7 9 4 9 0 / 8 5 0 9 7 9 7

LOT

ALABANG

AYALA SOUTHVALE VILL
 450m²-550m² 8K-13K/sqm
 Pls bnt name & tel# @
 0917-8997547 for more info.

KALOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m²
 P3,473m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA278m²

FA157m² 4br 3b P1.7M
 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

Sucat 4th Estate 120m² 715-8833

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m²
 P4,054m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

Congressional Ave 9314946

LIBIS QC 204m² 6400544

RIZAL

BARINTONPLACE Antipolo 574sqm
 SAN CARLOS Binangonan 370sqm
 Call 0917-8454534

OTHER AREAS

300m² 5Yrs 0% Int 6286238

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m²

P3,125m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BATANGAS

Nr Univ of Batangas
 400m² 0910-8932975

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m²

P2,284m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m²
 P165m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DASMARINAS CAVITE Hi-way
 46,093 m² Commerce
 Ave.1,668m² cor. Lot Alabang
 8 0 7 9 4 9 0

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m²

P2,900m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m²

P6,020m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m²

P5,750m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARLES DASHA nr SM

37m² P2,560m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

3br 2th Grge 15T Zobel Roxas
 Cor Conchu Tel. 6310704

QUEZON CITY

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449
 TT scnd Fema Rd Proj- 9262180
 Bgobantay 7233179/7120441

BNEW studio PROJ.2

4342604 / 0919-2876641

Roosevelt nr Munoz Mkt 2BR

grge 9392074/09185082321

SAN JUAN

A LUNA ST 2story spacious
 P9Timo good loc'n 6461603

WAREHOUSE/FACTORY

Cubao fabshp 500m² 8974697
 QC Whse 350/600/420m²
 24hr sec high wall 4563243

ROOM & BOARD

BF P'QUE P200/ 8275345
 Chin Hospital Mia 7118679
 FURNISH PASAY 8872805

OFFICE SPACE

OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE
 • 400m² / 6 Parking Lot
 • Space 1 G/F, 3B1, 2B2 P40,000
 • Per Sqm. 4th Floor Cacho
 • Gonzales Bldg 101 Aguirre
 • Cor Trasierra St, Legaspi Vill.
 Makati City Nora 0916-4342270

MAKATI

Mkt M/F P2.Bup /Pkg 8906374

BEDSPACE

Mkt nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697
 Proj3 studio lady 3.5T 9137513

BUSINESS RENTAL

Beautiful Office with Kitchen
 CR Travelers Inn Makati
 Avenue Call 8957333

QUEZON CITY

Roosevelt nr Munoz Mkt 2BR
 grge 9392074/09185082321

HOUSE

1128 ANTIPOLO ST.
 8902894 • 8902561

QUEZON CITY

Proj8 3car grge 24T 9137513

RIZAL

3BR Maids Rm Nawasa H2O
 1car grge 10T/mo 645-8756
 Park Antipolo Tel 895-8756

CONDO/TOWNHOUSE

Mkt. Studio 45m²/2Br/1Tb 65m²
 FreePkg NoDue 8979417

NEW TOWNHOUSE/UNITS/3FLRS

4BRS W/GRGE 19K/MNTH
 RSDNT/BUSINES USE 1103
 DEL PAN ST. MKTI Call Ed:
 872-3425 0927-2434412

STUDIO UNITS-19.15.15.15E

FULLY FURNISHED-ORIENTAL
 GARDEN SEE TO APPRECI-
 ATATE CALL TESS CEL 919 243
 4392 OR 522 6429

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR RENT

350 m²-2000m² IDEAL for CALL
 CENTER LIBIS 5642622

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL

XAVIERVILLE AVE.1017M²DBO
 P19.5TH / M² 6374316

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

02 CIVIC LXI VTI LK 10 LNEW
 FLOAD 490T 8004771

CARS

98 Besta Skul Bus 9418786

FORD

FORD CLUB WAGON '95
 AUTOMATIC TURBO DIESEL
 CALL ROMMEL 09178476253

HONDA

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942-43

KIA

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942-43

MAZDA

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

03'S L'car GLS A/T 458 T-711877

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Service 8014949

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Mesolpo Dissolve Products
 Manila/Davao 0921-3147611

**GENERAL
ITEMS FOR SALE****VISIT AUSTRALIA &
HAVE A BUSINESS**

Supported by GNLD International in over 50 countries.
Yes - you can have Wealth & Health
Meet with 2 Australian Independent GNLD Sapphire Directors at the Quezon City Office
1610 Quezon Avenue
Triumph Building
This Saturday only
Visit or phone for an appointment - 926-2655

QUEZON CITY

GARAGE SALE MAR.5&6 85
MOTHER IGNACIA Q.C.

**MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS**

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
ELITE PIANO CENTER
Almost New: TERMS-7213124

PETS

BOSTON TERRIER PUPS
09172069595 • 09223427489

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

Ostrich Seminar 03-11-05
For sale call (0918)293-2807

WANTED TO BUY

PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN

SWISS WATCHES

AGENCIA DE MAKATI-4587017
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN

ROLEX+OTHERS

Other Swiss Watches
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
Hi-Appraisal/Fast Cash
Repair/Polish Any Watch
T#804-0484 • 834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE

ROLEX
5646593 5897041
5633742 0917-8473744

WE BUY

**JEWELRY, DIAMONDS
ROLEX, PAWNTICKETS**
& Other Swiss Watches Fast Cash
09163422208 • 4216655

BUYING ROLEX

Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8142309 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

**PUBLIC
NOTICES****ANNOUNCEMENT**

Boost Your Career with POWER
ENGLISH! Enroll Now
at Karlagan E-Professionals
Call Lyn Tel. 842-3854

WE BUY OLD HOUSES
READY FOR DEMOLITION
951-1366 • 0927-7115000

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MIGUEL B. DELA PAZ was extra-judicially settled among his heirs as per Dec 83, Page 17, Book IX, Series of 2004 under Notary Public Atty. Rafael B. Hilao, Jr. (PDI-Feb. 28, Mar. 5, & 12, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the extra-judicial settlement with waiver of rights of estate of the late BENJAMIN PAGSISIHAN is made and entered among his heirs as per Dec. No. 402, Page No. 81, Book 22, Series of 2005 under Notary Public Atty. Helson Lalucos of Alabang. (PDI - March 5, 12 & 19, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that stock certificate No. 50820 issued by Ayala Corp for 179,050 shares of its Lourdes Teng has been reported lost. (PDI- March 5, 12 & 19, 2005)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit those who make me see
everything and show me the way to
reach my idea. You who give me the
divine gift to forgive and forget the
wrong that is done to me and who are
in all instances of my life with me. I, in
this short dialogue, want to thank You
for everything and confirm once more
that I never want to be separated from
You. No matter how great the material
desires may be, I want to be with You
and my loved ones in Your Perpetual
Glory. Amen M M R R

WANTED IMMEDIATELY**RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR**

- Male/Female with pleasing personality and good interpersonal relationship with customers
- Graduate of HRM is an advantage

WAITRESSES/RECEPTIONIST/WAITERS

- Pleasing personality
- Graduate of HRM is an advantage

CASHIER

- Pleasing personality
- Experience in a restaurant/grille setting preferred

COOK/ASST. COOKS

- Experience in a restaurant is an advantage

Apply at: **KARAMBA GRILLE**
#49 Scout Torillo St., Timog, Q.C.
3:00 p.m. and up
(Monday to Saturday)

Bring: NBI Clearance, Certificate of Emp. Credentials (if any)

URGENTLY NEEDED

Professional Electrical Engineer:
30-35 years old, 5-8 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD

Professional Mechanical Engineer:
30-35 years old, 5-8 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD.

Structured Cabling Engineer: 30-35 years old, 5-13 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD.

Apply with Resumé and 2 pcs. - 2x2 colored ID picture at: 2nd Floor, Almara Building near Honda Cars (on top of Chikurin Restaurant) Buencamino Street, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Call Tel. Nos. 809-3289 and 809-3290

Wanted Immediately**TEACHERS**

- > ELS Elementary Education
- > 29 years old, or less
- > Above average intelligence
- > Can teach music, arts

ACCT. CLERK

- > BS Accounting or BB Admin
- > Above average intelligence
- > 29 years old, or less

Both positions require proficiency in English and computer. Preferably residing in or near Fairview, QC. Call for appointment or fax Resumé at 939-5848.

**PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT GROUP**
We manage for best value.**PUBLIC AUCTION**
MARCH 17, 2005 • THURSDAY • 2:00 PM • LIGA CITY, Sultan Hall & Lakambini Dinette, F.S. Pajares Ave., Pagadian City**PAGADIAN****BALANGASAN**

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 294 sqm. FA: 168 sqm.
Lot 8778-F-9-A Palima Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 932,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 294 sqm. FA: 120 sqm.
Lot 8778-F-9-B-1 Palima Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 916,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 468 sqm. FA: 175 sqm.
Lot 8778-F-9-9-6 & 7 Palima Village
Minimum Bid Price: 912,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
LA: 149 sqm.
Lot 9-C-3-B Palima Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 142,000.00

LOT 5 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 2,216 sqm. FA: 220 sqm.
Lot 5861-B Purok Bagong Silang
Minimum Bid Price: 1,556,000.00

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 205 sqm. FA: 79 sqm.
Lot 2309-B-2 Interior QV San Jo St.
Minimum Bid Price: 702,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 299 sqm. FA: 90 sqm.
Lot 6 Ballesteros Village
Minimum Bid Price: 627,000.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299 sqm.
Lot 3 - E Ballesteros Village
Minimum Bid Price: 427,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 589 sqm. FA: 928 sqm.
Lot 3 - G-3 - H Ballesteros Village
Minimum Bid Price: 1,684,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 784 sqm.
Lot 9302 Rizal Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,498,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 307 sqm. FA: 921 sqm.
Lot 9304 Rizal Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 6,100,000.00

BALINTAWAK
LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 400 sqm. FA: 62 sqm.
Lot 5821-G-2-C-1 Nat'l Hi-Way
Minimum Bid Price: 411,000.00

BANALI
LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 3323 sqm.
Lot 1-A-Banali Road
Minimum Bid Price: 1,140,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 480 sqm. FA: 169 sqm.
Lot F-11 & F-12 Sio. Nino-Banali Road, Lower Banali
Minimum Bid Price: 1,284,000.00

LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
LA: 492 sqm.
Lot F-13 Banali Rd.
Minimum Bid Price: 327,000.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
LA: 3,208 sqm.
Lot No 1-B-5 Banali Road,
Pagadian Nat'l Comprehensive
High School Site
Minimum Bid Price: 1,527,000.00

BRGY. BOMBA
LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
LA: 26,907 sqm.
Lot 6116 Barangay Bomba
Minimum Bid Price: 1,262,000.00

DAO
LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
LA: 458 sqm.
Lot 240-B-1-A-2 Padap Road
Minimum Bid Price: 131,000.00

GATAS

LOT 19 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 152 sqm. FA: 110 sqm.
Lot 2347 - C & 2347 - D.V. Segun St.
Minimum Bid Price: 639,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 319 sqm. FA: 206 sqm.
Lot No. 9202 Along Alley, Sanson St.
Minimum Bid Price: 579,000.00

LUMBIA

LOT 21 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 704 sqm. FA: 182 sqm.
Lot 2782-A,B&C Uro St. Extension
Minimum Bid Price: 1,333,000.00

MURICAY

LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
LA: 10,018 sqm.
Lot No 775-C Muricay Road
Minimum Bid Price: 469,000.00

NAPOLION

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300 sqm. FA: 244 sqm.
Lot 2 & 3, Bldg. 3, Greenland Bldg.,
Alta Tierra Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,113,000.00

SAN FRANCISCO

LOT 24 - VACANT LOT
LA: 161 sqm.
Lot 3099-C Along Alley, Cabrera St.
Minimum Bid Price: 518,000.00

SAN JOSE

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 711 sqm. FA: 180 sqm.
Lot 2584-B Corner Broca & Aquino Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,985,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 250 sqm. FA: 179 sqm.
Lot 2842-D Corner Bonifacio
Extension & Mercedes St.
Minimum Bid Price: 700,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 507 sqm. FA: 230 sqm.
Lot 2846-A Cor. Sabate / Bonifacio Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,423,000.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 517 sqm. FA: 104 sqm.
Lot 8076 (Before Lot 27711-A)
Bonifacio St.
Minimum Bid Price: 857,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 581 sqm. FA: 104 sqm.
Lot 2, Bldg. 1 Padap Road
Minimum Bid Price: 843,000.00

LOT 30 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,208 sqm.
Lot 3216-B-4 Bengna Aquino St.
Minimum Bid Price: 720,000.00

LOT 31 - VACANT LOT
LA: 995 sqm.
Lot 3216-A-6 Sabate St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,419,000.00

SAN PEDRO

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 369 sqm. FA: 67 sqm.
Lot 647 & 648, Sabellano St.
Minimum Bid Price: 799,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 448 sqm. FA: 150 sqm.
Lot 178 & 177 Macaumbag St.
Minimum Bid Price: 835,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 369 sqm. FA: 165 sqm.
Lot 447 & 448, Macaumbag St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,392,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 485 sqm. FA: 454 sqm.
Lot 3291 Cor. Magaysay Ave. &
Bana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,000,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 478 sqm. FA: 764 sqm.
Lot 3290 Cor. Magaysay Ave. &
Bana St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,098,000.00

LOT 37 - VACANT LOT
LA: 2,149 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-7 Ramon
Magsaysay Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 6,576,000.00

LOT 38 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,225 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-6-E-2 Bana
Compound
Minimum Bid Price: 2,083,000.00

SANTIAGO

LOT 39 - VACANT LOT
LA: 763 sqm.
Lot D-2-C-3-B-3 Juan Alano St.
Minimum Bid Price: 7,512,000.00

LOT 40 - VACANT LOT
LA: 168 sqm.
Lot 12244 & D-2-C-3-B-3 A Juan
Alano St.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,235,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 83 sqm. FA: 142 sqm.
Lot 50-A Javier Anosa St.
(Bonifacio St.)
Minimum Bid Price: 674,000.00

LOT 42 - VACANT LOT
LA: 84 sqm.
Lot 50-B Javier Anosa St.
(Bonifacio St.)
Minimum Bid Price: 559,000.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 168 sqm. FA: 84 sqm.
Lot 52 Andres Bonifacio St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,158,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 390 sqm. FA: 490 sqm.
Lot 3174-A Bonifacio St.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,310,000.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 185 sqm. FA: 726 sqm.
Lot 32 Marcelo Dablo St.
Minimum Bid Price: 5,564,000.00

LOT 46 - VACANT LOT
LA: 182 sqm.
Lot 60 Interior Alley Thru Dablo St.
Minimum Bid Price: 300,000.00

LOT 47 - VACANT LOT
LA: 44 sqm.
Lot 103-A Corner J. Alano & Dablo Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 323,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 185 sqm. FA: 306 sqm.
Lot 359 Macaumbag St. (Muslim Area)
Minimum Bid Price: 1,448,000.00

LOT 49 - VACANT LOT
LA: 211 sqm.
Lot 341 & 328 F. Pajares Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,023,000.00

LOT 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 270 sqm. FA: 135 sqm.
Lot 21-B & 20 Pagadian Townsite
Subd., Interior Portion Of Pajares Ave.
Minimum Bid Price: 444,000.00

STA. LUCIA

LOT 51 - VACANT LOT
LA: 268 sqm.
Lot 1 & 2 Salera St.
Minimum Bid Price: 788,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 262 sqm. FA: 110 sqm.
Lot 263 Daloc St.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,224,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 156 sqm.
Lot 963 Gatas Creek, Jamisola St.
Etl.
Minimum Bid Price: 30,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 211 sqm. FA: 80 sqm.
Lot 757 Duterte St.
Minimum Bid Price: 899,000.00

LOT 55 - VACANT LOT
LA: 500 sqm.
Lot 2029 Along Alley Of Duterte St.
Minimum Bid Price: 425,000.00

LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
LA: 318 sqm.
Lot 267, 269 & 270 Fish Landing
Site, Aquino St.
Minimum Bid Price: 766,000.00

LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
LA: 101 sqm.
Lot 345 & 348 In Between Pajares
And Aquino Sts.
Minimum Bid Price: 108,000.00

STA. MARIA

LOT 58 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 314 sqm.
Lot 7-C Bana St., Zsne Site
Minimum Bid Price: 510,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 331 sqm. FA: 120 sqm.
Lot 2-A & 2-B Roxas St., Zsne Site
Minimum Bid Price: 793,000.00

STO. NINO

LOT 60 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300 sqm. FA: 100 sqm.
Lot 6, Bldg. 5, Purok Pag-Asa,
Valencia Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 551,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
LA: 174 sqm.
Lot 7-C Bana St., Zsne Site
Minimum Bid Price: 222,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
LA: 288 sqm.
Lot 9, Bldg. 3 Purok Pag-Asa,
Valencia Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 425,000.00

TUBURAN

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 594 sqm. FA: 96 sqm.
Lot No 10, Bldg. 1 Nail Hi-Way
Minimum Bid Price: 952,000.00

LOT 64 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 486 sqm. FA: 126 sqm.
Lot 67-F-2B & C Pk Lumbay, 0073
Minimum Bid Price: 320,000.00

LOT 65 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 600 sqm. FA: 335 sqm.
Lot 63-O-12 Pajares Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,130,000.00

LOT 66 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 180 sqm. FA: 177 sqm.
Lot 2096-H-4 & 2096-H-5 Goodyear
Road, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 1,298,000.00

LOT 67 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 454 sqm. FA: 153 sqm.
Lot 9005-H Paglum
Minimum Bid Price: 880,000.00

DUMALINAO

LOT 73 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 199 sqm. FA: 209 sqm.
Lot 325 Nat'l Hi-Way, Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 914,000.00

LOT 74 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 252 sqm. FA: 97 sqm.
Lot 5, Bldg. 11, Nail Hi-Way,
Paglum
Minimum Bid Price: 444,000.00

DUMALINAS

LOT 76 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 454 sqm. FA: 153 sqm.
Lot 9005-H Paglum
Minimum Bid Price: 880,000.00

IPII

LOT 77 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 740 sqm. FA: 157 sqm.
Lot 3774, 1153 Anduhol St.,
Poblacion
Minimum Bid Price: 599,000.00

LOT 78 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 2,400 sqm.
Lot 24 & 2-F, Bangkerohan
Minimum Bid Price: 408,000.00

KABASALAN

LOT 79 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 1,503 sqm. FA: 300 sqm.
Lot 2096-J & 2096-K Goodyear
Road, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 1,528,000.00

LOT 80 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 180 sqm. FA: 177 sqm.
Lot 2096-H-4 & 2096-H-5 Goodyear
Road, Sta. Cruz
Minimum Bid Price: 1,298,000.00

MAHAYAG

LOT 87 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 1,299 sqm. FA: 122 sqm.
Lot 17 (Lot 13104) Dao
Minimum Bid Price: 705,000.00

LOT 88 - LOT & IMPROV

BUSINESS

SMC to push through with stocks offer

SAN MIGUEL Corp., the country's largest food and beverage firm, yesterday said that there was no legal stumbling block to stop it from holding a P17.8-billion stock rights offering next week.

In its disclosure yesterday, San Miguel said it was pushing through with its plan to issue 285 million additional shares, a move that would also bring it closer to its goal of becoming one of Asia's top ten firms.

San Miguel said in its disclosure that there was no case filed by San Miguel chair Eduardo Cojuangco, Jr. or any other party which might affect the rights offer.

San Miguel was reacting to an INQUIRER story where a Palace official was quoted as saying that San Miguel's stock rights offer might not push through due to a pending court case filed by Cojuangco. The SMC chair allegedly disputed the government's claim on a portion of the coco-levy funded shares in the food and beverage giant.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said in a briefing that the matter was still in the hands of the Supreme Court.

Ermita later admitted that he was not aware whether SMC brought the case before the high court after the Sandiganbayan made a final decision.

San Miguel officials said the share ownership dispute had not been elevated to the SC and had been kept with the Sandiganbayan.

San Miguel yesterday also said that the offer period would start on Mar. 10. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

BSP: Pinoys apt to spend more in Q1

By Doris C. Dumlaog

FILIPINO consumers are becoming less bearish on the economy and household conditions, and are likely to spend more this quarter, according to a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas survey.

In its consumer expectations survey conducted among 2,396 households in Metro Manila from Jan. 27 to Feb. 2, the diffusion index (DI) remained negative at -44.2 percent in the first quarter, but it was an improvement from the -49.1 percent DI posted in the previous quarter.

The DI is the percentage share of respondents that answered in the affirmative—minus the number of respondents that answered in the negative—in a given indicator. A negative DI would then indicate a bearish view when measuring confidence levels.

The households with negative expectations cited insufficient income and higher expenditures as reasons, the BSP yesterday said in its report.

On the other hand, those that had a positive outlook anticipated increases in domestic and overseas income, wages and employment.

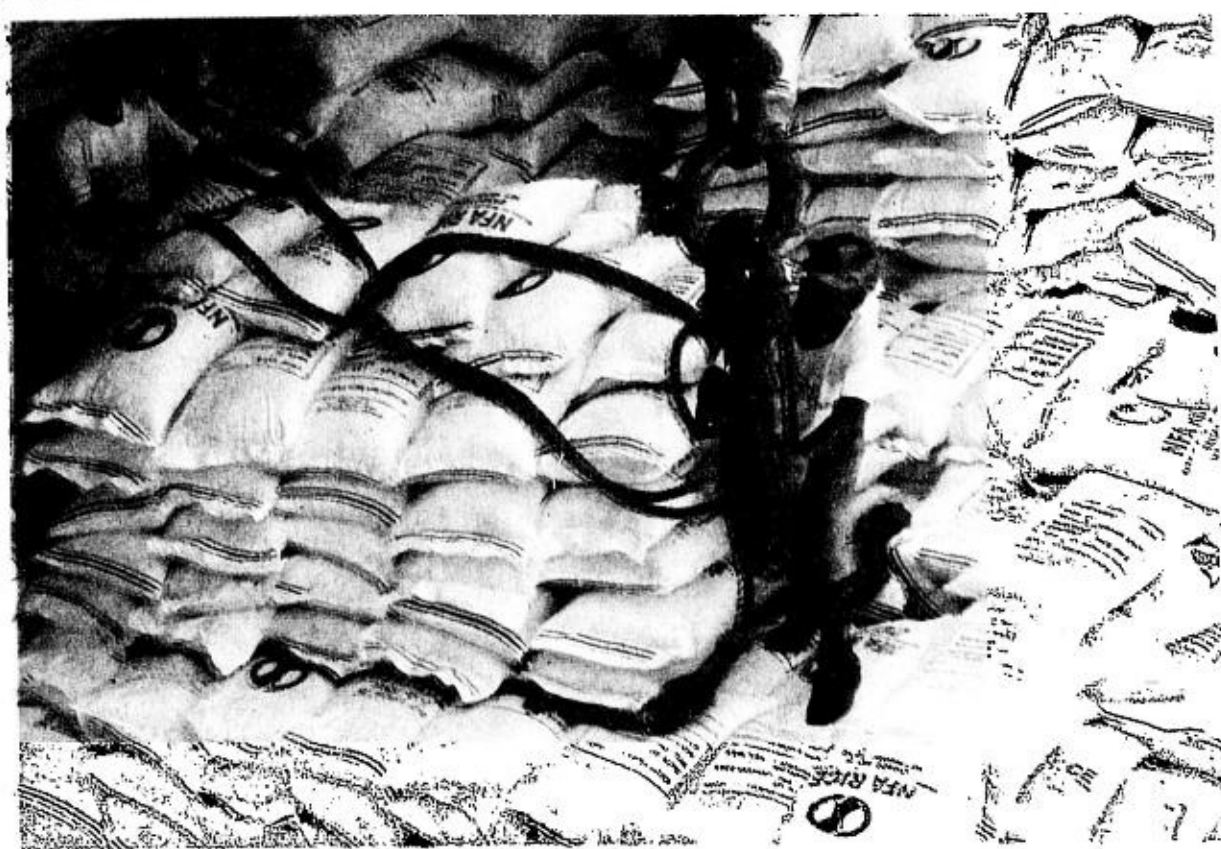
Households with the lowest monthly income of less than 10,000 were the most pessimistic, with a DI of -51.1 percent, while those with the highest monthly income of P70,000 and above were the most optimistic with a DI of 7.3 percent.

"It could be observed that the DI improved as the household income level of respondents increased," the BSP said. "For all income levels, however, the households were least optimistic about the economic condition of the country and most optimistic about their family income."

But despite the negative outlook indices, the same survey showed that Filipino consumers were more optimistic in purchasing assets for the first quarter, with the buying conditions index rising to 36.2 percent in the first quarter from 20.4 percent in the previous survey.

Over the next 12 months, the survey indicated that about three out of 10 households intended to buy a house and/or lot, consumer durable or motor vehicle.

Overall consumer outlook is also expected to improve further in the second quarter as the DI stood at -16.8 percent from -20.5 in the fourth quarter of 2004.



RICE, RICE BABY

FILIPINO dock workers unload bags of repacked rice imported from Vietnam at Manila's south harbor. The Philippines, one of Asia's largest rice importers, bought 400,000 tons of rice from Vietnamese suppliers in January. Vietnam suppliers are also expected to win the bulk of the 500,000 tons which Manila sought in a tender on Tuesday.

REUTERS

DTI bent on tapping \$5B/year Saudi market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE Secretary Juan B. Santos is urging local businessmen to work with their Saudi Arabian counterparts toward forging a pact that would enable the Philippines to penetrate the Middle East country's \$5-billion-a-year halal food market.

Santos made the call in time with the

visit of representatives from the Council of Saudi Chamber of Commerce and Industry early this week who came over to further develop commercial ties between the two countries.

"A bilateral cooperation on halal is a win-win situation for both countries," Santos said. "Muslim consumers in Saudi Arabia can readily avail themselves of authentic Halal food, while Filipino

exporters are enabled to capture a sizeable share of the Saudi market."

Halal is an Arabic word that generally means "permissible." In relation to consumables, the word refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink, according to Islam.

There are millions of Muslims worldwide, the global halal food market averages close to \$150 billion a year.

Santos said the DTI had taken steps to make easier the production and export of halal products. It has recently launched a campaign to turn Southern Mindanao into a halal food production area.

Last month a halal-certifying group said Philippine halal food exports were expected to double this year to about \$100 million, in the wake of the Asian tsunami last December.

The Ridge at Canyon Woods...

The Ridge at Canyon Woods... nestled in a settling horizon, its design and the structure of housing environment that combines the traditional elements of harmony and the built environment in harmony with nature. It is a settling of experience. This design encompasses housing and is a beautiful backdrop for the modern suburban life style.

Come to our open House on March 6 (Sunday) from 9 am to 4 pm at the Georgetown Clubhouse.



www.canyonwoods.com

Owner/Developer

Tagaytay Grassland Company, Inc.
GCK Building, 1226 G. Apacible St., Paco, Manila
Phone: 521-2222 Fax: 522-3357
E-mail: marketing@canyonwoods.com

Marketing Network

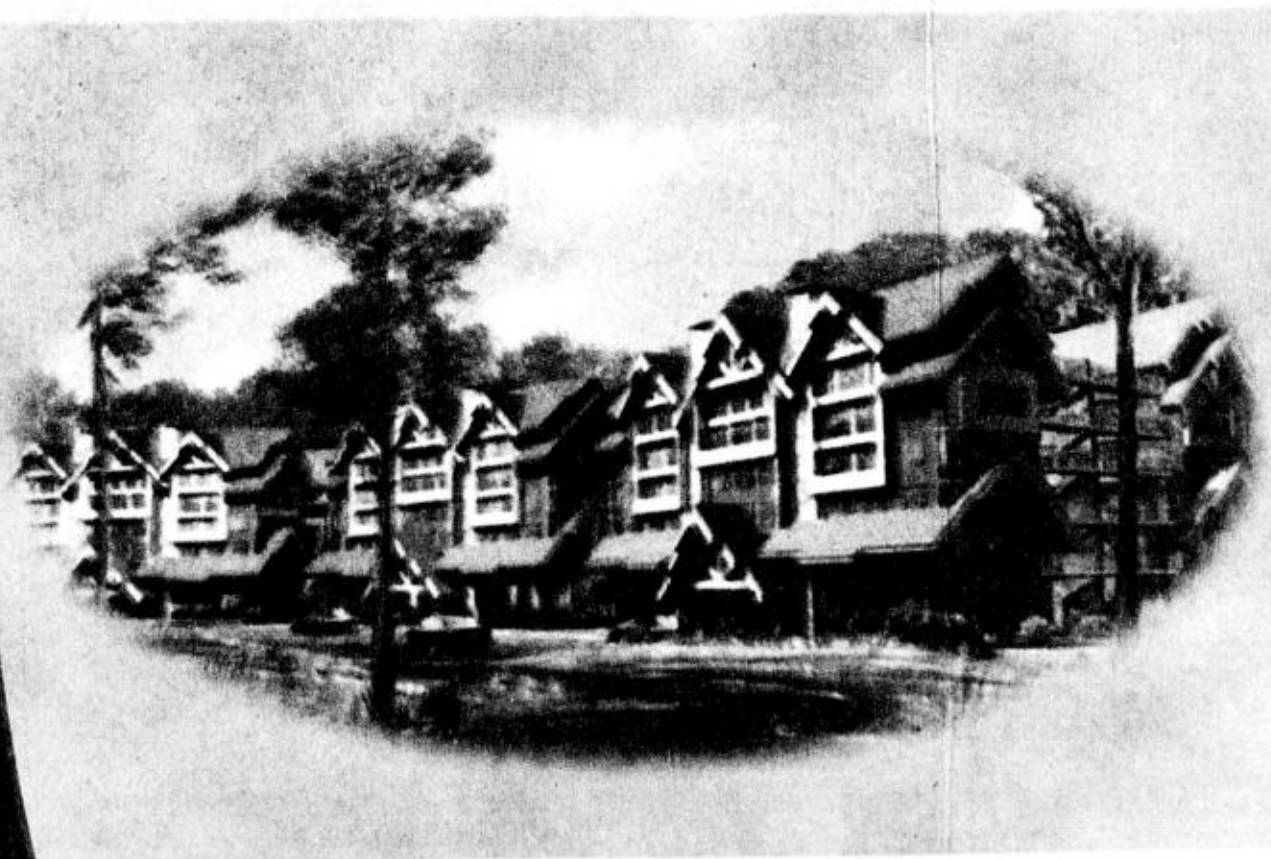
Phone: 633-4406
633-6190 635-4454
634-2295 637-2928

Resort Office

Diokno Highway Barangay San Gregorio, Laurel, Batangas, Philippines
Phone (632) 521-7878
Fax (632) 664-6169
E-mail: info@canyonwoods.com



Experience the pleasures that life has to offer.
Own a home in Canyon Woods today.



PROPERTY

'260 Architects' look to the old for that 'new' look

By Tessa R. Salazar

RENOVATION or restoration—that is the question. Can a third world country like the Philippines afford to restore the period architecture and history of a vital institution? Or should our sense of history be of such importance that the cost of restoration be a secondary concern?

In a third-world country where restoration, whether for historical or artistic ends, is viewed as a luxury rather than a necessity, architects are hard-pressed to de-

fend ambitious public projects that transcend the utilitarian aspect and aim for esthetics and a sense of history.

Even the country's highest court is not spared from scrutiny in this regard. The Supreme Court building's interior had recently been renovated—or restored—to sport the turn-of-the-century look. And it was not an overnight process to transform the SC's interiors from looking just plain old into "historically old."

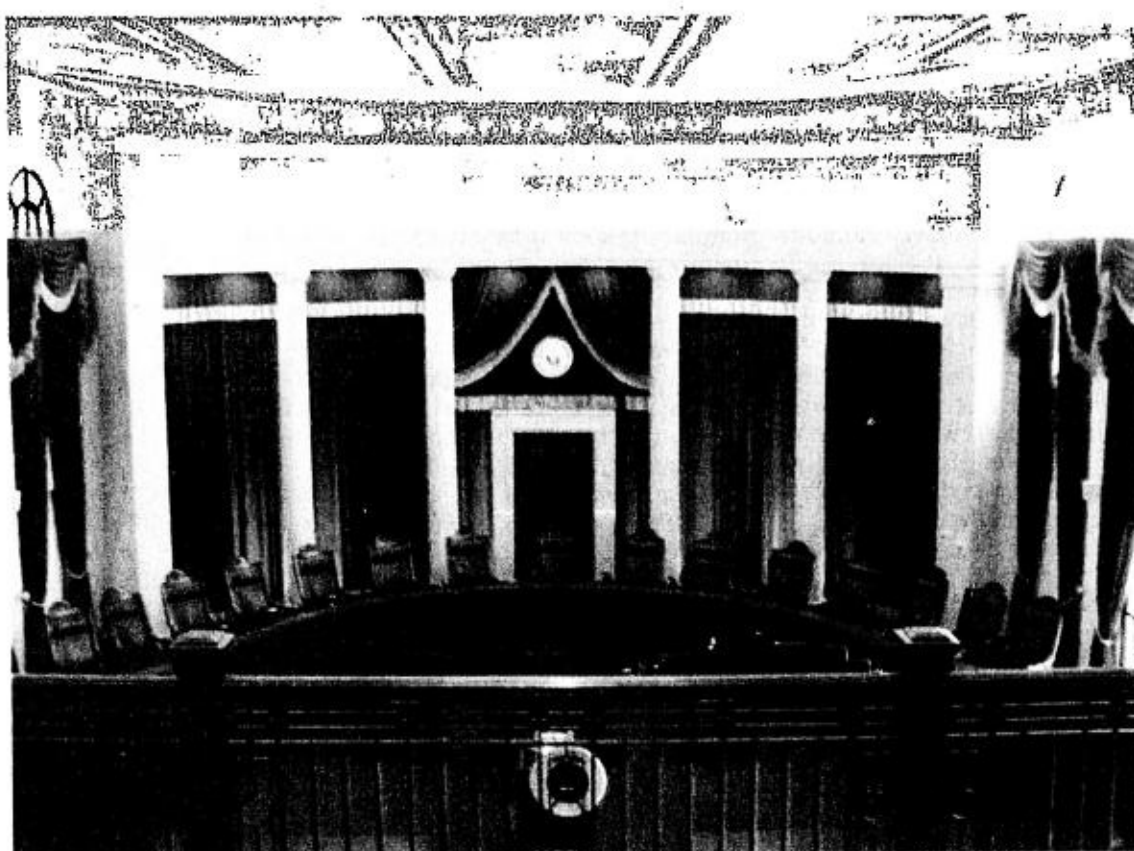
Somehow, a few years back, the young architects of 260 Architects managed to convince the justices that a simple sprucing up of the place wouldn't do, well, justice to the "hallowed" halls. Not surprisingly, after a two-year

deliberation, the justices chose the firm of 260 Architects over two other bidders for the renovation of the interiors.

Coming up with a design

Forerunners of 260 Architects then had to choose between two possible approaches in arriving at a design solution fit for the Supreme Court's interiors.

The first was to conceptualize a truly sleek interior design, incorporating the latest "stately" materials into a well-coordinated space, combined through the utilization of the principles of good architectural design and proportion. This would include exhaustive design work sessions with the owners, resulting in a space that reflects the ideals of the current Supreme Court. The result would



THE "THRONES" of the 15 chief justices

look more like a modern courtroom.

The second would be to focus entirely on the institution's history.

"The design," the architects said, "would be guided by history and not personal taste."

Historical heritage

And so, in 2001, 260 Architects convinced the 15 chief justices to allow them to focus on the institution's rich historical heritage. This approach required more study and research.

Needless to say, the approach

also required more time from the justices to get approved. So, after two years, the justices finally relented to 260 Architects' idea and in August 2002 actual renovations started. The process would take eight months to complete.

260/B2-2



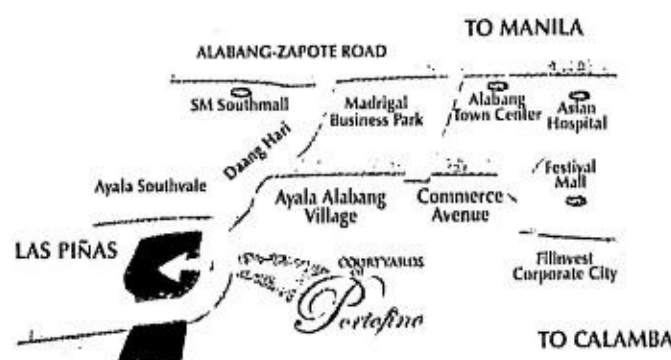
COURTYARDS
OF
Portofino

Un Segreto è All'interno
(INSIDE, A SECRET LIES IN WAIT.)

An intriguing secret is tucked inside the homes at Courtyards of Portofino...an enchanting room, where sunny skies and starry nights serve as nature's canopy; a private place for friends and family. This is your very own courtyard, and it's right inside your home.

Inspired by classic Italian design, Courtyards of Portofino brings home charming Old World archways, cupolas, vivid sun-drenched colors and best of all, quaint, uniquely Italian courtyards. Moreover, the courtyard homes surround grand courtyards across the enclave of Courtyards of Portofino.

Discover the secret, experience the enchantment of Courtyards of Portofino.
850 2868 • 850 6986 • www.brittany.com.ph



Brittany
CORPORATION

Green restoration and preservation of churches

RESTORING and preserving the cultural heritage of a community is a very green concept. This is especially true for Philippine churches, structures that have come to symbolize our strong Christian belief.

These churches, many of which are exceptional architectural gems, should be protected by our people and given the importance they deserve. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

Many of our churches, in many parts of the country, have been altered, sometimes brutally. In some cases, well-meaning individuals have attempted to radically transform what they feel are old and obsolete buildings into new and up-to-date churches to keep up with the times.

All these have inflicted considerable damage to our cultural heritage, a trend that is very difficult to reverse.

Green concept

Why is restoration and preservation a green concept?

Green architecture principles complement restoration and preservation efforts of our churches. How? Every time an old building shell is preserved rather than demolished, a considerable amount of embodied energy is saved. Embodied energy is the energy required to extract the raw material, process, deliver, install and eventually demolish and discard it.

Since the embodied energy in a church is large, its reuse will save much of the energy and expense of new construction. At the same time, simply by preserving the building, demolition and disposal costs are eliminated.

Many of our churches which are in the Spanish Baroque style, have wonderful architectural character and intricate details that cannot be cost effectively replicated.

Different challenges

What is restoration and preservation?

Simply stated, restoration means the representation of the original form of a building or any of its part, while preservation means to maintain and prevent the decomposition of a building or any of its parts, with the intent of passing it on to future generations.

Each of these methods poses different challenges to the architect and contractor. In the case of the preservation of churches, the general rule is to try to preserve what is already there.

For restoration works, the challenge is somewhat different. The question asked is: How can restoration be done when there is no existing historical basis or ref-

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

erence to begin with?

Many years ago, it was very fashionable for many churches to strip the *palitada* or plastering that acts as the skin of the wall. Little did they know that it would cause serious damage. By doing so, the adobe blocks, which are porous and easily pulverized, are exposed to the elements and human intervention. What's more, this insensitive "improvement" has been the cause of the obliteration of some of the finest architectural details which have been a source of admiration for previous generations.

Best option

So what's the best option in the absence of any existing historical reference?

Some of our churches are several hundred years old and many do not have any records of how they were designed or built. One of the best options for finding a historical basis for designers is to refer to old photographs.

Scouring old treasure chests, family albums of weddings and baptisms, and the traditional Flores de Mayo, would probably yield valuable information that can help the design team. This is particularly helpful when restoring the *retablo* (main altar), which is the centerpiece and focal point of any Baroque church.

The importance of the *retablo* cannot be overemphasized. An authentic recreation of the *retablo* can give dignity and honor to the interiors, particularly if it is a century-old church. Every effort must be made to secure a reliable source of reference as a basis for its design.

Another possible source would be the National Historical Institute (NHI), which can also give construction guidelines.

Green materials

The traditional *retablo* is normally made of wood from the decorative panels, to the architectural ornaments and structural framing. Some have managed to survive the test of time, while many have not.

Moisture penetration and termite infestation have been perennial problems. To avoid such problems, certain measures must be taken. Wood can continue to be used for the decorative panels on

the façade. This is still the best material for the *retablo's* main panels but for its framing, metal columns and frames are better options.

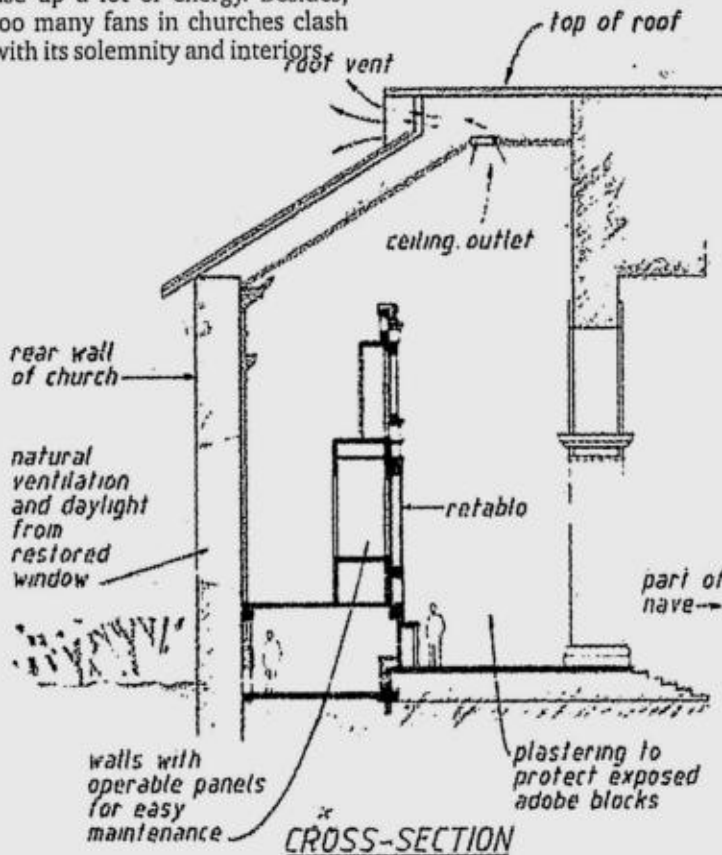
For maintenance purposes and inspection for any termite infestations, it is a good design feature to include operable panels at the rear of the *retablo*, much like cabinet doors, to allow ocular inspections and actual repair works, without the usual dismantling and carpentry makeover.

Green innovation

The effect of the heat island phenomenon brought about by global warming has not spared many of our churches. [Heat island phenomenon refers to the build up of heat in urban areas brought about by many hard surfaces, like concrete and metal, absorbing heat in the day and slowly releasing it at night. This is the main reason urban areas are many degrees hotter than rural areas.]

To lessen heat buildup in churches and improve the thermal comfort of the churchgoers, generous ceiling vents should be provided with the heat discharging through openings at the roof.

Care must be exercised in the design of the ceiling in order not to disrupt the architectural character of the interiors. Properly done, this feature can minimize the use of big electric fans that use up a lot of energy. Besides, too many fans in churches clash with its solemnity and interiors.



CROSS section shows how natural ventilation and daylight was introduced into the sacristy area through the ceiling and roof ventilation outlets. No mechanical equipment was used but natural heat convection was relied on to flush out heat and improve thermal comfort.



THE RESTORATION of the retablo (main altar) of the 424-year-old Church of San Antonio de Padua in historic Pila, Laguna, was done with the beneficial principles of green architecture. The recent restoration was designed by the author.

Church interiors can also benefit from improved daylighting and natural ventilation by ensuring that windows are operable and are provided with light-colored glass.

Updating the electrical system is very important for many churches. One way is by ensuring that all wirings are checked and enclosed in metal conduits.

Recycling

When churches are upgraded, there is normally a large amount of excess materials that can be reused or recycled. This could mean big savings. Examples are timber frames dismantled from choir lofts and other parts of the building that have been partially affected by mold or termite.

These can be recycled or kept for future improvements. By using this stock of excess materials to make repairs and improvements, incompatibility problems such as shrinking and cracking will be eliminated. Old building components are best matched with similarly aged add-on parts. Lastly, recycling and reusing materials such as wood help protect our forests and endangered species.

The church could very well be the most used building in Philippine communities. It is constantly undergoing some renovation or restoration. If that is the case,

why not apply the beneficial principles of green architecture?

"Greening the Financial Sector: Managing Environmental Risks in Banking Lending" will be held on March 11 at the Dusit Hotel in Makati City from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The event aims to highlight financing opportunities for and address emerging financial issues on environmental due diligence and management toward achieving sustainable development.

Experts from the banking and financial sector have been invited. Organizing the event are the Asia-Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) and the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (Adfiap) in partnership with the United Nations Environmental Program, Bangkok (Unep) and the International Finance Corp. (IFC).

Registration fee is P2,500 per participant. For information and reservations, please call up Mitzi Busmiente at 920-0074 or Sandra Honrado at 844-2424.

The author is vice chair of the board of judges of the Asean Energy Awards and is a practising green architect. For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

'260 Architects' look to the old for that 'new' look

"Since the Supreme Court was an institution rich in history, a commemoration of its 100 years and the historical background of the structure were able to convince the justices that it would be better to restore," said Ronald M. Miranda, president of 260 Architects.

"This would be a history lesson, a Greek revival of the details of antiquity," said Miguel Andres B. Salcedo, senior director, 260 Architects.

The Supreme Court's session hall, the en banc conference room, division session hall, en banc dining room and the other support facilities were the focus of the restoration works.

"The first home of the Supreme Court, the Ayuntamiento, was of Spanish colonial and European flavor, not of the American neoclassical style. But since the Supreme Court was established

during the American (occupation), then it would be neoclassical (in style)," said Salcedo.

Research

Though the Supreme Court's architectural heritage went as far back as the Ayuntamiento, the Supreme Court of the Republic of the Philippines was officially established on June 11, 1901. The architectural style of the time was Colonial American architecture. The prevailing architectural style in the US mainland at the time was the neo-classical style.

The architects defined neoclassical interiors as being a bit more masculine, but not overdone—with the stately, popular use of straight lines. This included using tall French windows and double doors.

The emphasis here would be on the regularity of the design, and the architectural orders of

the day were the "Styles of Antiquity."

Rectangular shapes and curved lines were used with restraint, and symmetrical composition was important even in floor plans.

The neo-classical interior used panel moldings, and sometimes had color contrasting with the field, or a narrow paint stripe would be added near the edge of the panel to accentuate the frame.

Some of the qualities of neoclassical interiors also meant that whenever possible, a marble top was used. Doors and windows had elaborate trims; ceilings were usually left plain, or sometimes were painted in with sky or cloud effects.

The neoclassical interior also utilized less elaborate design for furniture.

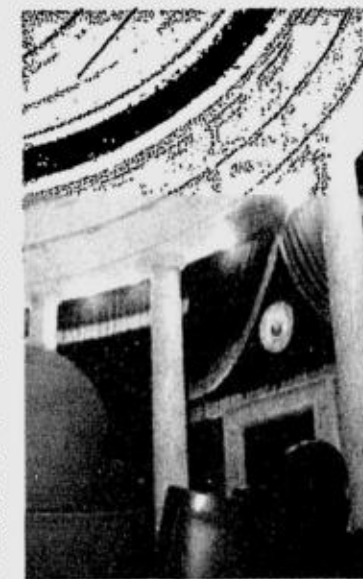
Former library

The present SC building, by the way, used to be a University of the Philippines library.

Restoration also meant that the 206 Architects team would not have to build a new structure but would focus on existing structures. The details of the embossed design on the walls, such as angels previously painted white, and other signs that symbolizes knowledge, would now become more prominent, as the figures were now "colorized."

Suddenly, there would be accents and flavors of neoclassical architecture. Suddenly people started to notice the embossed designs of the walls.

Miranda said restoration also prevented them from touching the old designs, and only highlighting them to maintain the integrity of the building.



LIGHTS that highlight the stateliness



COLUMN that symbolizes strength



LIGHTS were also added from below.

There was a request from the chief justices that windows of the session halls fronting Padre Faura Street should be redone to shut off street noise. The architects finally decided not to touch the windows because this would destroy the integrity of the building.

"What we did was just to build over a second pair of windows without destroying the pattern of the architecture. You could still see the same set of windows outside of the building but we added one more layer of double glazed windows," said Miranda. He added that the windows are laminated, so technically the sound bounces off sound better.

Technology, however, was not compromised. A mezzanine, audio-visual rooms and projector screens were added. Not to mention that green-and-red button used by chief justices to give the go-signal for appealing lawyers to either speak or to wrap up, as well as mini monitors on each

seats (for audio-visual presentation and in preparation for future plans of virtual courthouses), were added. For dramatic effect, lights on ceilings and floors near the columns at the back of the chief justice's seats were added.

The justices' ballister, a wooden barricade that sets the justices' seat from the people's benches, used to form like a horseshoe, and couldn't be previously opened. The justices had to go through the back door and out of the session hall, and enter another door of the session hall to be able to go down from the ballister. The architects now expanded the area, and put an opening to spare the justices the long trip to the people, so the speak.

The en banc dining area was renovated in a simpler manner than the session hall.

A welcome change

The four columns that could be seen on the exterior façade of the

SC building (not real marbles, by the way, concrete columns), which also symbolize the four divisions of the Supreme Court, were also matched with the four columns inside the session hall (real marbles this time). There were also four columns inside the lobby of the building with a medallion on the middle of the floor. The architects decided to put the medallion in an elevated position at the center of the lobby and put lights to focus on it. The medallion became more important.

"For the chief justices, this was a welcome change. All they wanted was to renovate, to make the session hall look decent and resolve some functional issues such as acoustics.

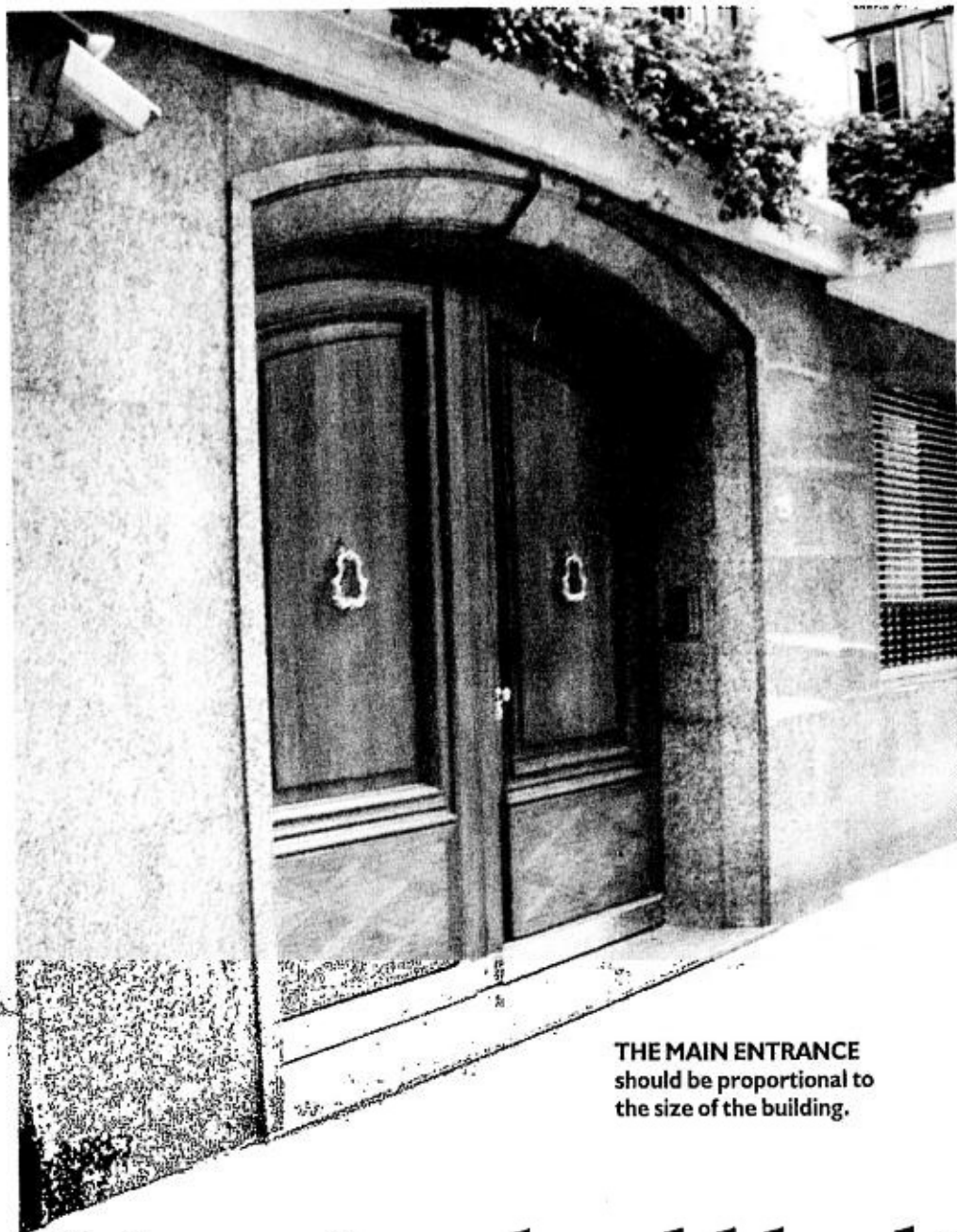
"We just wanted to be true to what our job was," Salcedo said.

The neo-classical architecture in the Philippines was prevalent with Daniel Burnham's master plan of Manila. Remnants of this style could be found in the exterior of the buildings of the Philippine General Hospital (1910), Court of Appeals, and the Villamor Hall in Taft Avenue, the current site of the Supreme Court (the former Department of Foreign Affairs).

The research went as far back as retrieving old photos of the detailed interior of the SC. For instance, photos of the Yulo court from 1942 to 1945 were traced at the SC memorabilia; photos of Household Antiques & Heirlooms showed lamps were generally of sinuous fern-inspired brass metal work, its shades were fluted, stripped, ribbed or molded.

Memorabilia photos also showed how the SC's wood panel looked like at that time.

From page B2-1



THE MAIN ENTRANCE should be proportional to the size of the building.

Things one should look into when choosing the right apartment

By Dianne M. Villafuerte

LIVING in an apartment building does not necessarily mean one has to give up practicing good feng shui, especially if one finds safety and security applying it to his or her home environment. There are still some things one should look into when choosing the right apartment building.



FENG SHUI

The main entrance to apartment buildings, as in a house's, should be proportional to the size of the building. A small building with a too large entrance will let inauspicious chi (energy) to enter the apartment while enabling favorable chi to escape. A large building with a too small entrance, on the other hand, will contain the unlucky chi inside the building while making it hard for beneficial energy to enter.

In feng shui theory, feng shui practitioner and writer Zaihong Shen says that it is ideal when there is a vestibule—a passage or room between the outer door and the interior of a building—in an apartment building's main entrance. The vestibule slows down good interior chi so that it will not quickly leave the building.

Questions to think about

Feng shui consultants also advise apartment-hunters to consider even the building's lobby when searching for apartments. Shen shares with her readers the following questions to think about when looking at apartment lobbies:

- Is the lobby's size proportional to the building's size?
- Is it inviting?
- Is there good air circulation?
- Is the temperature controlled?
- Is the lobby kept clean and uncluttered?

- Is it in a good condition?
 - Are the lobby's colors neutral and calming?
- Why should apartment building lobbies matter? Because this place has the same purpose as a house's foyer. A lobby makes beneficial chi to linger much longer within the building while hindering the entrance of unfavorable chi.

Controlling noise

Remember that commercial whose jingle goes by the words, "Traffic / So bad nakakababag trip..."? That primarily sums up what every single one of us feels when caught in the middle of the famous and horrendous Metro Manila traffic. But just imagine what those living in an apartment built smack in the middle of a busy street feel every single day?

In feng shui theory, high noise levels are believed to cause irritability, frustration or aggression in people. In addition, excess noise drastically disturbs an apartment's energy which may also lead to headaches, depression, anxiousness and insomnia in the occupants.

Since those living in apartments have virtually no control over their street's traffic levels, Shen advises those living in apartment buildings in traffic-congested areas to reduce the noise coming into their apartments by installing double windows to isolate the apartment against noise, using a white noise machine to turn down street noise below, getting a small water fountain to add a soothing-sounding water element to the environment, or providing soothing and calming ambient music.

Eurovek PVC DEEP WELL CASING & SCREEN PIPES

Used in underground well systems to benefit subterranean water and are manufactured in accordance to DIN 4823 German standards.

Non-Toxic, lightweight, easy to install, with threaded connection, and has a lifespan of fifty (50) years.

EUROVEK PHILS., INC.
Eurovek Building 7443 Santolan cor. Fernando St., Makati City
Tel: 816-0191-920 812-0523 812-0585 • Fax: 812-0912 • Mobile (0918) 9334720-23
Email: eurovek@yahoo.com

Your Total Solution To Any Waterproofing Problem

FLEXSEAL™

Elastomeric Paint
Total waterproofing protection for walls, floors & other general waterproofing requirements



SUPERSEAL

Cementitious Waterproofing Coating
Heavy-duty cement-based waterproofing protection for walls, floors, basements, water tanks and other water-holding structures

FLEXROOF

Elastomeric Roof Paint
Gloss waterproof roof paint specially made to waterproof and finish most type of roofings

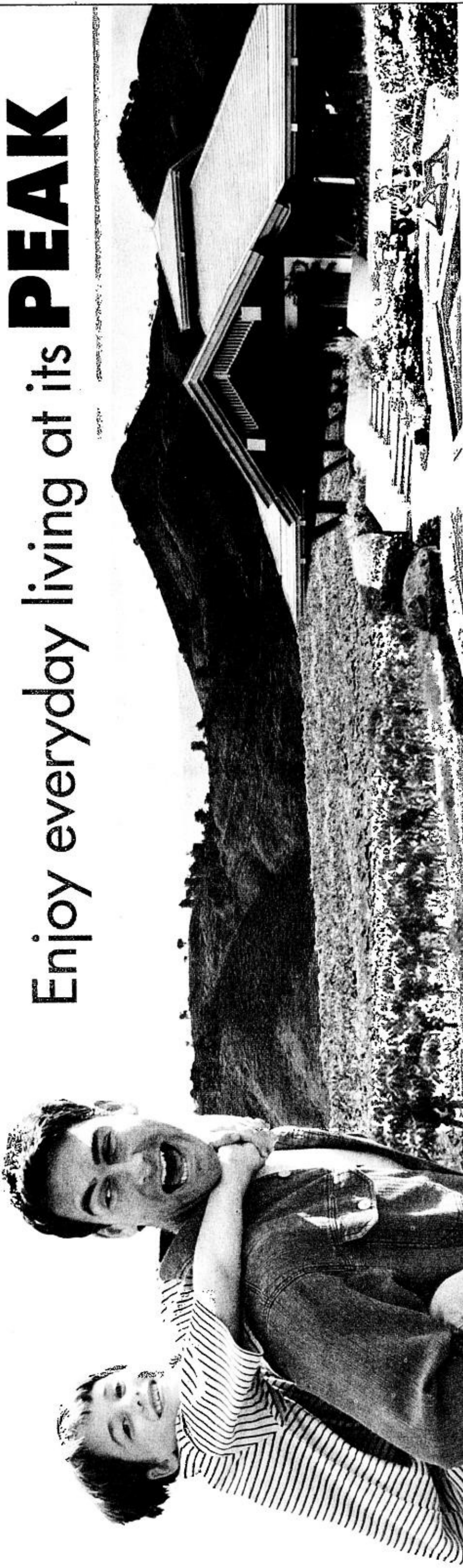


From the most trusted name in waterproofing:

CAMPBIDGE Waterproofing Systems, Inc.
1370 JOSE ABAD SANTOS AVENUE, METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES
Tel: 8 252-0531

AVAILABLE THROUGH DEALERS NATIONWIDE

Enjoy everyday living at its **PEAK**



Now it's just 15 minutes between high mountain living and city life!

(One home and enjoy the fresh mountain air, cool breeze, green grass, vibrant gardens and spectacular view from Laguna de Bay to Mt. Arayat—all at Timberland Heights, your new mountain town! At twice the height of Antipolo, it offers you the chance to fulfill your dream of living in a mountain-resort atmosphere, with the added pleasure of being able to do some farming. Not only that, it's just 15 minutes away from the Barasán Pambansa in Quezon City, providing you easy access to the metropolis. Call us now and build your new home at Mandala Residential Farm Estate and Banyan Ridge at Timberland Heights!

For inquiries, call 723-2323 or visit www.timberlandheights.com.



TIMBERLAND
HEIGHTS

Call 723-2323 or visit us at www.timberlandheights.com

FILINVEST
INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

Come to Timberland Heights this weekend and experience high mountain living firsthand!



APARTMENT dwellers fall prey to the bothersome noise brought about by traffic.

PROPERTY

Your home, your listening room

By Charles E. Buban

A HOME entertainment system will most likely be on top of one's list when building or redesigning a home.

After all, who doesn't like rich, natural-sounding music or clear, discernible dialogue and lifelike sound effects filling up one's room?

But a lot of people often equate such systems to cumbersome speakers, complicated

wiring, and hard to configure and set up.

"These people will be glad to hear that there is now a system that doesn't take up too much room space and yet deliver top-quality audio that is very hard to beat," describes Wilson So, president and GM of Eleksis Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Bose entertainment systems in the country.

Blend in with any décor

In launching the Lifestyle 48, Bose's flagship DVD home entertainment system, So explains that with its size and minimalist design, the entertainment package is sure to blend in well with any décor of most living rooms.

"The speakers are small so they can be discreetly placed anywhere: perfect for those who can no longer alter or redesign their room," describes So.

The Lifestyle 48 is composed of five Jewel Cube satellite speakers, each only 11 cm high and consisting of two rotatable speakers placed on top of each other.

The Acoustimass module (which is responsible for the bass) is just the size of a large PC, measuring about 40 cm high, 60 cm deep,



EXPERIENCE thrilling music and movie surround sound from just few pieces of equipment.

With this size and all-black body, it can be placed discreetly anywhere or out of sight.

Completing the system is the Bose Media Center, a sleek silver and black unit which has the size of a small fax machine, where access to the controls and DVD tray are located.

Easy setup

"The hidden beauty of Lifestyle 48 lies in the Bose technology called ADAPTIQ audio calibration system wherein one doesn't need to move furniture and speakers or add anything to the floor, walls and ceiling just to get the best possible sound," explains So.

As an example of the system's flexibility, So transformed the 20 square-meter portion of his showroom at the Rockwell Powerplant Mall in Makati City into a state-of-the-art listening and viewing room.

"I spent little on the room itself—no padding installed, just a curtain here and a frame there. The only extraordinary is the 47" Fujitsu Plasmavision monitor hooked to the Lifestyle 48 system and as one can see they took up very little space in the room," reveals So.

According to him, the ADAPTIQ system was developed to analyze any room, and then it adjusts the Lifestyle system for a consistent, high-quality performance each time one listens.

BOSE'S Lifestyle series customizes sound to any room's unique characteristics and size.

"All that is needed is to just sit in up to five of the preferred listening spots and allow the ADAPTIQ system to automatically make the necessary adjustments," reveals So.

On your short list

The Lifestyle System 48 should be on your short list if you're looking for a single device that simply and effortlessly handles nearly all your home audio-video needs—playing DVDs and CDs, ripping and storing MP3 audio, and cueing up music according to your preferences.

It's elegant and powerful, if you can get past the price. At P219,000 (without display monitor) this system is not for the faint of wallet.

"Bose Lifestyle system has its own niche. But what is wonderful is that it packs more features like its expandability—this system can be linked to several compatible Bose products so the household can enjoy music anywhere in the house," adds So.

The Lifestyle system can be linked to as many as 14 additional rooms, even outdoors.

Learning your preferences

So reveals that the Bose uMusic technology intelligent playback system actually listens to your music and learns your preferences, then makes selections based on what you like.

The uMusic system is ready with just the songs you want to hear: no need to search for CDs or decide, which tracks to listen to, according to So.

The system features Videostage 5 decoding circuitry and digital 5.1 decoding that ensure a high-quality 5.1-channel surround experience from practically any source.

The 5.1-channel sound is piped through five separate channels: front left, front right, center, rear right, rear left, and the sixth, a subwoofer (that's the .1 in the standard's name) for deep bass.

"With this technology, even older films and TV shows on VHS can be played in the system and deliver high-quality 5.1-channel surround experience," assures So.

Indeed, the Lifestyle 48 system puts it all together with innovative approaches that let any discriminating homeowner enjoy the best music or movie experience at home.

Ayala Land launches new community with upgraded amenities

TREND-SETTING innovations in community development will be incorporated by Ayala Land Inc. in a new residential project in Southern Metro Manila.

Adjacent to Ayala Alabang, Sonera is a 20-hectare residential subdivision which will exemplify a new generation of Ayala communities that will be smaller in size and at the same time feature upgraded amenities including the most advanced subdivision security systems.

Accessible

A new phase of Ayala Southvale Village, Sonera is accessible from Daang Hari Road which directly connects to the Madrigal Business Park and the rest of the well-established Ayala Alabang residential community.

Through the four-lane Daang Hari thoroughfare, Sonera is just a short drive from the Alabang Town Center, the De la Salle Zobel school, the Paref Woodrose School and other facilities of the self-contained Ayala

Alabang community.

Security systems

Apart from its enviable location, Sonera will offer security systems designed by an internationally recognized security consultant and underground amenities, which mean fewer accidental power and telecommunications interruptions for the homeowners.

In response to the property market's desire for more stringent security measures, Ayala Land has tapped Control Risks Group to design innovative security systems such as active infrared perimeter intrusion systems, long-range proximity cards for motor vehicles (similar to the e-pass in use at the South Luzon Expressway) to control access to the village, remote screening through CCTVs and home-alarm monitoring provisions.

The 20-hectare Sonera will only have 200 or so lot owners. Lot sizes will range from 318 to 733 sq m. In addition, its residents are assured the

same quality of life and excellent maintenance associated with Ayala Land communities. Sonera will be managed by Ayala Properties Management Corp., which has a legacy of over four decades in sustaining upscale residential and commercial properties.

Confident

Ayala Land Inc. assistant vice president, observes that Sonera is likely to appeal to second- and even third-generation owners of Ayala property. "People who have grown up in our communities are likely to seek the same quality of life and reliability we offer once they become homeowners themselves."

He is confident that Sonera will also be warmly received by upwardly mobile families who have chosen Southern Metro Manila as their place of residence. Among residential subdivisions in this area, the most highly valued continue to be the projects developed by Ayala Land.



AYALA Land officers recently inaugurated the Sonera sales office at the project site in Ayala Southvale, Las Piñas. Attending the blessing of the new office are, from left, Jay Caniza, Zaldy Mercado, Joel Luna, Thomas Mirasol and Jay Visco.

Local pest control firm with int'l standards

CUSTOMER satisfaction is key to success in the pest control business. Yet, the way to achieve such a feat is said to be more than just what meets a "termite's" eye.

Elmer Baradas, president of Entom Pest Control and General Services Corp., reveals that developing high standards for termite control treatment and services makes the cut.

Says Baradas: "We learned a lot from our major clients about established international pest control service standards. From there, we adopted these standards for the benefit of all our customers whether multinational companies or mid-level establishments or residences."

Entom does not mind taking an extra mile to meet the changing demands of its diverse clients. "We deemed it is necessary to elevate our standards via continuous improvement in terms of training well-rounded, independent technical staff and upgrading our services, particularly creating an efficient pre and post termite control monitoring system," adds Baradas.

Always on the lookout for training opportunities to improve its services, Baradas is keen on specific programs. "We are currently targeting environmental safety, occupational health and even fire fighting. All these are apart from taking on regular technical training courses facilitated by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)," he says.

Valuing customer satisfaction

Eight years since Entom ventured into pest control, the company has grown from managing a handful to 65 full-time staff. It also moved out from its cramped apartment office in Laguna to settle comfortably in a three-story build-

ing within the Alabang area that houses its main office, training facility, employees' living quarters and a (planned) conference room.

Baradas attributes the company's success to a simple yet effective marketing strategy. "Most of our clients were referred by satisfied customers. Even then, we knew providing quality service is very important in our line of business."

Establishing partnership with Dow AgroSciences, manufacturer of Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System forced them to have a paradigm shift in controlling termites. "We were so used to the traditional system, applying the liquid form of termiticide, where we just have to inject and spray to control termites. But with Sentricon, it was different, there are so many things that we have to learn to totally eliminate termite colonies. Our partnership with Dow AgroSciences was the biggest boost in our business."

Int'l standard service

Entom is certainly working hard to continuously upgrade its standards when it comes to services to meet the ever-changing demands of the market. Being one of the authorized operators of Sentricon and a top one is not an easy feat to achieve, according to Baradas, it has more to do with the standards set by such acclaimed termite control technology. "There is a distinction when you represent Sentricon. It means only one thing: high standard pest control. So, as an authorized operator we are compelled to live up to the expectation," he says.

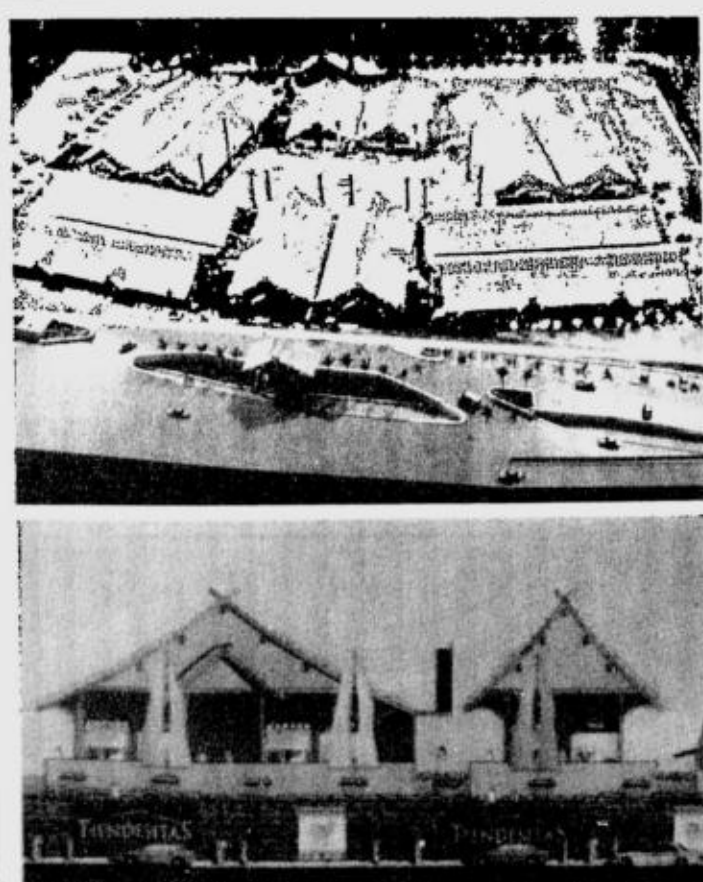
Says Dow AgroSciences sales manager Gladez Ilao-Talavera: "We make sure that Sen-

tricon is handled only by highly professional and skilled pest control operators. Even the technicians are not spared, they should be a cut above from the rest. Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System is a world-class product (system) that have been tested and proven to work locally and internationally. That's why we cannot compromise on the services that should be received by our customers."

"Elmer is right, it is not an easy feat to become an authorized operator and a top one at that."

There are many processes one have to undergo to be an authorized user. We also conduct quality assurance review and customer satisfaction survey, to find out if our authorized operators meet the standards set on professionalism and quality of work. There were instances, when we have to part ways with some authorized operators because they can't measure up to the standards. It was hard but our priority is for customer benefit and satisfaction. We have been successful in our goal, to be at par with our international counterparts when it comes to results and services," adds Ilao-Talavera.

Entom Pest Control (850-8941, 842-4724; 0917-8277139) has entered a new phase in its thriving business. A significant goal is now in the works: acquiring an ISO certification. "We are pursuing multinational clients with very strict, high standards when it comes to pest control so we can test our capabilities at the same time, gauge which areas needs improvement. We know it will not be easy but with Sentricon backing us up, we know we can make it happen," says Baradas.



ASIA'S BIGGEST FLEA MARKET

Tiendesitas, Asia's biggest flea market and theme park, has been launched at its 18-hectare site on C-5 Road near Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City. Tiendesitas is composed of different villages which will showcase Filipino products made by native manufacturers. There will be several stores in a village showcasing different products.

Belle Touts Growth Prospects



The Woodlands

Belle Corporation is one of the Philippines' leading developers of leisure communities. Prior to its introduction of leisure community developments in the market, the idea of leisure development was confined to the development of resorts, hotels, amusement centers, and a few "out of town" clubs. Originally incorporated in 1973 as an oil and gas exploration company, a group of investors, including Messrs. Willy N. Ocier and Hans T. Sy, took over the company in 1989 and re-oriented it towards high-end leisure property development. Belle completed and opened its flagship development project, Tagaytay Highlands International Golf Club in 1993, and, shortly thereafter, completed its counterpart country club in 1996. Residential properties proceeded apace with these two recreational facilities, with the Pinecrest Village being completed in 1995, the Villas in 1996, the Belle View in 1997 and the Woodlands in 1998. In 1997, Belle launched Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club. Thereafter, two upscale residential subdivisions beside the Midlands golf course, the Alta Mira and Lakeview Heights, were launched in 1998.

The 1997 to 1998 Asian financial crisis severely affected Philippine property companies and financing possibilities. In 2002, Belle raised substantial private equity through the spin-off of 534 hectares of its undeveloped land, mainly in the Tagaytay Highlands complex, and the initial public offering of 449 million shares of Highlands Prime, Inc. ("Highlands Prime") in April 2002. With the infusion of fresh financial muscle, Belle,



China Palace



The Spa & Lodge



The Parks at Saratoga Hills



The Woodridge

with its sister company Highlands Prime, rebounded strongly to launch Plantation Hills and

Woodridge in 2003. The first phase of both of these developments were almost fully sold and completed by the end of 2004. Due to the overwhelming success of both of these projects, Belle and Highlands Prime proceeded with planning for the next phases of the Plantation Hills and Woodridge, as well as for two new projects which will be formally launched in 2005: Belle's Saratoga Hills house and lot development north of Plantation Hills; and Highlands Prime's condominium development beside the Midlands golf course, The Horizon at Tagaytay Midlands.

Looking forward, Belle and Highlands Prime have a master plan to develop an integrated residential and leisure community encompassing more than 1,700 hectares of land, from the ridge of Tagaytay City through the foothills of Talisay and Tanauan, Batangas, and lapping the shores of Taal Lake in Tanauan and Balete, Batangas. Beyond

2005, Belle is planning for an upscale subdivision south of the Midlands golf course, which will be built alongside the exciting 18-hole course of the Midlands golf club, and new sports facilities close to its Plantation Hills and Saratoga Hills developments, which is anticipated to form an extension of The Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands. These facilities will include new badminton and tennis courts to meet the excess demand of club members, as well as land beside Taal Lake, which Belle and/or the club may develop for lakeside sports facilities in the future.

Belle is also in discussions with various educational institutions to cooperate in establishing school facilities in the Tanauan area, which will set the stage for primary housing developments nearby. In the farther future, Belle has about 325 hectares of land in a peninsula jutting into Taal Lake, which will form the nucleus of its planned

Lakelands leisure and residential community.

The SM Group is a major investor in both Belle and Highlands Prime. Belle, Highlands Prime and the SM Group are working together to develop synergistic opportunities, and are exploring future projects along the concepts of medical tourism and retirement communities in the Tagaytay and Batangas development complexes of Belle and Highlands Prime.

Belle Corporation

is happy that, from its initial project in 1993, several property developers have seen the relevance of developing leisure communities in an environment-friendly and family-oriented manner. Since the 1990's, numerous developers have followed this trend, not just in the Tagaytay and Batangas areas but also further south of the Laguna areas, as well as areas north of Metro Manila. Belle will continue to be at the forefront in the development of integrated residential and leisure communities that will also comprise a significant component of the eco-tourism strategy for the Philippine economy. ☐



The Lagoon Park at Plantation Hills

Tagaytay Highlands

Your Home For All Seasons

The Belle View



48-seater Funicular



Kidsports

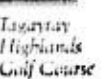


The Woodlands



The Highlands Golf and Country Clubs

Tagaytay Highlands Golf Course



Two 18-hole championship golf courses ~ state-of-the-art sports facilities ~ diverse recreational activities ~ more than 20 restaurants ~ 24-hour security ~ 100% emergency power supply ~ independent and unlimited water supply ~ 24-hour medical service ~ independent fire fighting team ~ 60 minutes from the Makati and Ortigas Business Centers ~ 2,000 feet above sea level ~ cool Tagaytay weather



All these and the privacy afforded by a members-only gated recreational and residential community are but a few reasons why The Highlands has risen from just being your club to being a family tradition.

Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club



The Alta Mira



Badminton Courts



Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club



Flowerside Farm



Lakeview Heights



Set Your Sights Higher.



Tagaytay City, Philippines

Tagaytay Highlands (046) 413-0824
Belle Corporation 687-2885 or 0917-5261253

www.TagaytayHighlands.com

Owner/Developer



Lakelands

PROPERTY

Hot days ahead for furniture



BLEACHED abaca niche seating

THE JUST-CON-CLUDED furniture show at World Trade Center, Disenyo Manila was a must-see. This was where foreigners and locals gathered to see the newest and the latest trends this premier design city was offering—a showcase of the top designers' opus and a chance for the exporters to grab a share of the foreign market.

I had this rare time of satisfaction as I reached the exhibit area. Well, I was annoyed with some exhibitors who would curtly tell local guests like me they were not selling to domestic buyers. This is short of saying Filipinos have no business to offer so I might as well hike out (grrr...so much for the friendliness from compatriots). But except for that isolated irritation, I had a very inspiring time.

New chips of the old blocks

I could see the materials were essentially the same. Wood, rattan, wicker, bam-

INTO SPACE

Pinky Cruz



boo, wrought iron, stone, sea grass, leather and fiber glass were used. The innovation was in the usage. The forms were ambitious. The combinations, eye-

catching.

A couple stood out for my subjective eye, leaving me visually exhilarated. For the most attractive displays, I particularly liked the way Far East Manufacturers brilliantly composed their eclectic pieces, giving a European-Retro chic with a Filipino flavor. The pieces they were selling may not be totally innovative but put one and one together, you have this exquisite mélange of a setting.

Another one, the Vienna Shop managed to take me somewhere in the savannah without leaving the premises.

The plantation look was oh-so cool; the cane has never been so glamorized in combination with black-lacquered wood, simulating



COCOON Lamp

bamboo. With window shutters and magnificent banana trees in the entry, I became ready for summer.

When classic is chic

"More than a Chair" truly lived up to its name, what with various renditions of a typical chair. Maze, another avant garde company, gave the classics the updated look.

I was enthralled with a lot of things I never knew could be so interesting. Among these were the skinned rattan reeds divider by Spring Sheets, the cocoon lamp of Pinili Home Décor and the bleached abaca niche seating by Restoration.

Oh yes, Filipinos got what it takes. I went away with the smug feeling of accomplishment. I could see the future of furniture is just about as bright as the summer sun.

(For comments and suggestions, please write me at pinkycruz@creativepost.com.ph.)

California inspires design of South Forbes model unit

WHEN interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario were approached by Cathay Land to conceptualize and implement the interiors of the Mediterranean-inspired Alicante Villa model unit, they immediately visualized how the unit would look like.

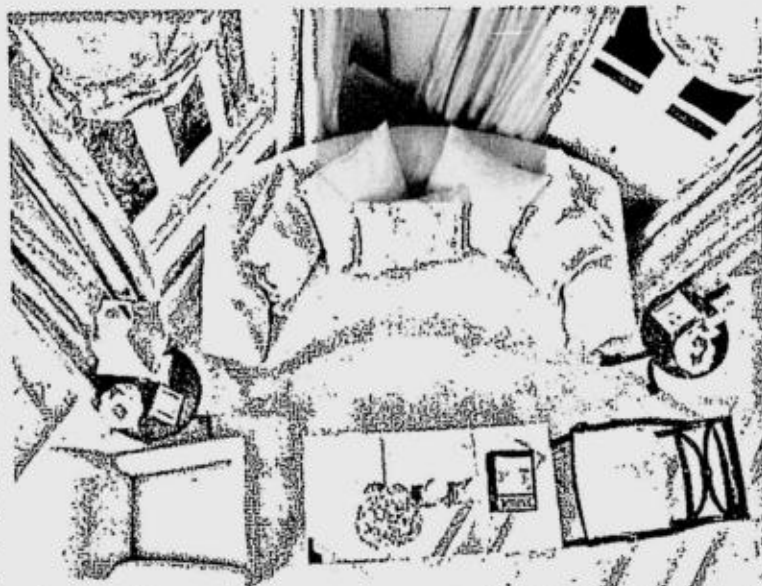
"We worked and lived in California for 13-15 years before we settled back here in the Philippines, so the Spanish architecture and interiors of the houses we've visited there, served as our inspiration," Cynthia narrated.

Since the Alicante unit comes with a high ceiling, the double volume space allowed the sisters to design a unique tromp'oeil beneath the stairs. The tromp'oeil, a neat row of flowering plants below the stairs and beside the spacious living area, allows a very lighthearted atmosphere within the house. "We want people to realize they can do this with their unit," added Cynthia.

Mural

Guests who view the unit also experience that "wow" and "aahhh" effect when they gaze at the high mural and admire all the action going on at kidney-shaped sofa from the second floor's indoor balcony.

The mural highlights the



KIDNEY-SHAPED sofa in the living room

height of the available space, high-quality silk fabric and balloon drapes accent the floor-to-ceiling windows, and champagne gold colors give the living room a cohesive look. "We wanted the eyes of visitors to go around, not stuck in just one area," said Cynthia.

A lanai at the back of the dining area, meanwhile, allows residents to enjoy the view outside while having breakfast or merienda.

Bedrooms

For the master's bedroom, the sisters opted for a relaxing space, that's why restful colors such as light blue and white set the tone. A luxurious bathroom and spacious closets give the future resident couple quality time together.

The sisters imagined the male child to be adventurous in character, so they came up with a nautical theme for him. Boat accessories, navy blue and white bed pieces, and a captain's wheel for a

mirror send the kid to a good sea voyage, every time he sleeps. Built-in cabinets beside the bed give him enough space for his books and toys.

For the female child, they imagined her to love mornings basking in the sunshine, so they decorated the room with violet sunflowers in white linen as the theme. Her room also has ample study area and even has space for a computer.

Alicante unit

"Our design should look familiar to Filipino-Americans from California. I hope we have captured their aspirations and once they see the Alicante unit, decide to settle back here at South Forbes Golf City if they do decide to come back to the Philippines like us," Cynthia declared.

Her sister Ivy added, "Residents of South Forbes can actually copy our model unit and do this. We gave them a high standard to aspire for and realize their dreams. It will be a joy for anyone to see that it's possible."

To admire for yourself the spacious modern Spanish-Californian Alicante model unit at South Forbes Golf City, please call (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 and visit www.cathaylandinc.com.



ALICANTE Villa model unit



DINING room

Landco to transform Calatagan into a tourism estate

LANDCO Pacific Corp. is set to begin construction of a 92-hectare seafont residential and tourism estate this year in Calatagan, Batangas.

A first of its kind in the country, the development will feature exclusive seaside home lots, hotels, a beachfront leisure and commercial center with retail, dining and entertainment outlets, apartment and condominium buildings and recreational structures to attract Metro Manila residents and foreign tourists to Calatagan.

Major tourist town

Landco envisions transforming Calatagan into a major tourist town offering varied nature-based attractions and activities.

Only two-and-a-half hours away from southern Metro Manila, Calatagan has the potential to become a viable tourist destination for local and foreign tourists with its beautiful white sand beaches, proximity to Tagaytay and significant cost advantages arising from its proximity and excellent road access from Metro Manila.

Calatagan already boasts of beautiful beaches, historical-cultural landmarks, a world-class championship golf course, the Punta Baluarte estate and weekend homes of Manila's elite.

Landco's development proposes to complement these existing attractions by introducing a master-planned tourist hub integrating residential and tourism

components that will serve as a base from which to enjoy Calatagan's various attractions. A coral regeneration program will also be undertaken by Landco to position the town as an alternative diving destination.

Helping spur dev't

Landco vice president and SBU head for residential resorts Patrick Joseph Villano said that unlike other resort developments, the development will be centered around the locale and not just on an individual resort.

He also said Landco's investment in Calatagan's tourism would help spur development in the area by creating jobs

for residents, establishing linkages with public and private entities and showcasing local products and trades.

He added that Landco is committed to realizing the area's tourism, recreational and economic potentials.

Experienced developer

This tourism estate project is a product of Landco's experience in leisure and recreation gained from its earlier pioneering concepts—Peninsula and Terrazas de Punta Fuego, Leisure Farms and Ponderosa Leisure Farms.

Landco also manages key hotel/resort properties through subsidiary, Fuego Hotels and Properties Management Corp.

(Fuego Hotels) which manages Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay, the Pearl Farm Resort in Davao and Club Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas.

Landco is a multiproduct developer of high-quality residential resorts, leisure farms, first homes residential developments, shopping centers, CBDs and memorial parks.

Now celebrating its 15th year, the company continues to provide superior value in its developments, and is more and more widely recognized as a benchmark for outstanding lifestyle products that always dare to innovate. For more information, please call 807-2232 to 34 or visit www.landcopacific.com.

Developer cites need to address housing backlog

A NICHE player in the property sector has cited the need for the development of modern housing enclaves to meet the housing needs of the country's expanding middle class.

"The country's housing backlog, which is estimated at 2 million units, is increasing at a rate of 400,000 units annually," said Francisco J. Buencamino, president of Breezewoods Development Corp.

"The continuous growth of the economy has enlarged our middle class, boosting the demand for higher quality residential homes," he added.

More affordable units

Buencamino said housing developers have to tap this segment of Philippine society by offering more affordable units with easy access to commercial business districts and which suit their longing for healthy lifestyles.

"As more Filipinos from the provinces become office workers in Metro Manila, developers need to design for them houses in a serene environment, which is at the same time close to business centers where they work," he said.

A good example of such environment, he said, is Marikina City, which won the nod of the World Health Organization for being one of the world's healthy cities.

Marikina City, known for its well-planned urban setting and green surrounding, is a few minutes away from business districts, industrial centers, shopping malls, schools and hospitals in neighboring cities of Quezon, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Antipolo.

Low-cost condo complex

Buencamino said that in its attempt to provide middle-class urban settlers with the serenity of the rural environment, Breezewoods has developed a low-cost condominium complex in Marikina City.

Known as the Breezewoods Royale, the project is a four-

story building composed of 70 housing units and 10 commercial shops that provide services to the residents. Such shops include a pharmacy, a convenience store, a bookstore and a laundry center.

Designed by architect Eric Vincent L. Yusingco, Breezewoods Royale, the only medium-rise building in its vicinity on Katipunan Street near the Social Security System Village, was started in December last year and is expected to be completed by November 2005.

Buencamino said it was designed in such a way that residents can take the pleasure of living the healthy lifestyle under the comforts for their new homes in Marikina City.

"On top of being affordable and accessible to life's essentials, Breezewoods Royale is a product of emergency preparedness planning. Certainly, the project allows residents to celebrate life to the fullest," he said.

Target buyers

He said their target buyers are office workers and employees in Marikina, Quezon City, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Antipolo. Each unit, measuring 35 square meters, sells at affordable prices ranging from P1.1 million to P1.2 million.

Breezewoods has partnered with Pag-Ibig Fund to enable the buyers to pay the unit through a monthly participation of P10,000 to P12,000.

Said Buencamino: "We are focusing on meeting the demand for low-cost and medium-cost housing as we believe that high-end residential projects address only a very limited market of the few affording sector of the population. We want to stay in the industry where the demand is."

Incorporated in 1995, Breezewoods is the same company, which developed the 1,300-unit Breezewoods Homes in Bacoor, Cavite. It also has a small pocket project in Pampanga.

Courtyards of Portofino open for viewing

INSPIRED Italian lifescapes are now available just a few minutes from the Alabang business center as maverick real estate developer Brittany Corp. opens for viewing the splendid Courtyards of Portofino.

Reflecting passionate devotion to the balance of privacy with community, of the cosmopolitan with the natural, the Courtyard design takes ingenious turns with its concept of "courtyard within a courtyard." Every cluster of homes is set within a handsomely landscaped central courtyard, while every home also have their own lovely courtyards tucked within.

Four well-planned 2 to 3 story home de-

signs are available: namely Cezanne with 193 square meter floor area, Monet with 233 sq m, Raphael with 249 sq m on a 306-sq-m lot, and Rembrandt with 260 sq m of floor area on a 334-sq-m lot.

With architectural design by Recio-Casas and interiors by Atelier Almaria, the distinctive homes also feature foyer entrances, porticos, rounded balconies, casitas, high ceilings, beautiful windows and magnificent use of natural light and space that maintains natural cooling perfect for tropical weather.

The Courtyards of Portofino adds another feather to Brittany's strong track record of developing communities of quaint magnificence. Property previews may be arranged at Tel. Nos. 850-6986, 850-2868 and 850-3084.



AN ENTRANCING welcome, from the foyer leading to the courtyard.



THE GORGEOUS Raphael features a majestic dome-shaped cupola that sets a truly Italian feel to the home.

What you need to know about tiles

USING floor tiles is the new alternative to shiny hardwood floors because of its durability, design and financial rewards.

Tiles are made up of different types ranging from ceramic, homogeneous, granite, mosaic and paver tiles.

Gone are the days when tiles only come in plain colors. Now, varieties of design like the "pattern," "marbledized" or "salt and pepper" tiles easily make a great contribution to the decorative scheme in the different sections of the house.

Here are some helpful tips about "tiles" and how to install them properly from Ortigas Home Depot.

- Being heat and splash resistant, durable and versatile, tiles should not be only contained to bathrooms and hallways. In fact, glass and tiles complement each other very well.
- Square or rectangular shaped tiles is best for diamond or block-wall designs or patterns.
- Hexagonal and octagonal tiles can also add dramatic effect.
- Border tiles with glazed relief designs or patterns give a professional finish to plain tiles.

Good preparation

The quality of a tiled finish however is wholly dependent on good preparation.

- Before mounting tiles on your wall or floor, it is important to plan where all the tiles (both whole and cut) will fall. You can do this using a tiling gauge.
- When you need to cut around a more difficult or intricate shape, it is best to use nippers.
- For elaborate designs, work it out first on graphing paper before attempting to transfer it permanently to where you intend it to be.
- Always wear safety glasses and dust respirator to prevent eye and respiratory damage.

Tile installation

- Fill in gaps between the tiles with tile grouts (powder or pre-mixed).
- For bathrooms and kitchens use a mildew-resistant grout and sealant.
- Remove old flooring before installing new ceramic tiles to check if repairs are needed.
- Always remember that surfaces that are frequently exposed to water require vitreous tiles or nonporous natural stone so it is best to use either latex or acrylic-modified grout and adhesive.
- Laying ceramic tile flooring can be both satisfying and challenging. When the job is done, the result is often one of the most pride-inspiring.
- Buy all the tiles you need at the same time and check the color tone and finish. If the tiles are dusty, wash and dry them before beginning.

Buyer-friendly

At Ortigas Home Depot, one can choose from a number of tile manufacturers originating from Spain (AzulIndus), Brazil (Casa Grande), Italy (Ariana and ABK), Indonesia (Asia Tiles), Malaysia (Goucera, MML, NIRO) and China (Fino Granite) apart from locally manufactured brands like Eurotiles, Lepanto and Mariwasa.

Tile racks of the various designs and sizes are also buyer-friendly to help the buyers choose among the various designs with ease.

Ortigas Home Depot is open every day from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. The home price guarantee makes it sure that products you buy in the Home Builder's Superstore is competitive.

If you find the same brand of items priced lower than any other retailer, Ortigas Home Depot will match the price and refund the difference.

It is located at No. 1 Doña Julia Vargas Ave., corner Meralco Avenue, Barangay Ugong, Pasig City.



TILE racks of the various designs and sizes are buyerfriendly.

Solignum

THE FIRST AND ONLY
anti-anay wood preservative
registered with the
Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority.
Other brands are not.

- ✓ Solignum is the 1 that is truly effective against anay, buklok and fungi.
- ✓ Solignum is the 1 you can trust for your home.
- ✓ Solignum is the 1 you should choose for your peace of mind.

Solignum

WOOD PRESERVATIVE

Tried. Tested. Trusted.
All over the world for over 100 years.



Any questions on wood protection?
Call Engr. Lunas at Tel. Nos. 843-6011 to 15
or Cellphone No. 0920-910-ANAY (2629)



JARDINE DAVIES, INC.
Jardine Davies Building
222 San Gin J. Puyat Ave. Makati City 1200
under license by PROTIM SOLIGNUM LTD.
Fildhouse Lane, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1LS
United Kingdom

For all wooden trusses, beams, floors, joists, posts, frames, use Solignum. Available in Colourless and Brown.

PROPERTY

World's most expensive washroom

IMAGINE answering to nature's call in a 24-carat gold toilet bowl encrusted with precious stones in a bathroom with a ceiling decorated with diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds and pearls.

AMAZING STRUCTURES

You can't? Believe it or not, in Hong Kong, you actually can.

Most expensive washroom

Hong Kong jeweler Lam Sai-wing built what is listed in the Guinness World Records as the world's most expensive washroom. The \$4.8-million washroom has two toilets weighing 380 kilograms each, made of 24-carat solid gold and encrusted with gems.

Apart from the toilet bowls, the wash basins, toilet brushes, toilet paper holders, mirror frames, wall-mounted chan-

deliers, wall tiles and doors are all made of solid gold. The washroom's ceiling is embellished with about 6,200 precious stones such as diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds and pearls while the floor on the doorway is embedded with 900-gram gold bars.

High-tech facilities

The ancient Roman-style washroom is inspired by Vladimir Lenin who, in 1921, said toilets of gold should be built to remind the people of the waste of capital warfare.

The eye-popping washroom is not

without high-tech facilities, such as an air filtration system, a built-in automatic system for flushing and a self-cleansing and forced-air system.

Taking a pee in this blinding toilet comes with a price, though. Lam Sai-wing's customers must first remove their shoes so as not to scratch the gold tiles and must spend about \$200 on Lam's jewelry. With a lavatory this dazzling and sparkling—literally and figuratively—one might just be left gawking and awestruck instead of answering to nature's call.

Dianne M. Villafuerte



WHERE else can you relieve yourself but on a 24-carat gold toilet bowl?

In the Alabang Complex lies a new phase at Ayala Southvale Village called Sonera. Ayala Land's latest residential development. When you buy a lot at Sonera, not only are you a stone's throw away from all of life's necessities, you are also enveloped by one of the most advanced subdivision security systems available. Now you can live freely and openly, without fences and with unparalleled convenience. Visit Sonera today.

Call: 848-5000 • ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph • www.ayalaland.com.ph



AYALA LAND, INC.



Media under a microscope

By Marge C. Enriquez

"I WILL, therefore I am."

This is the crux of the grand order of arguably the most powerful woman in fashion. Anna Wintour, 55-year-old editor-in-chief of American Vogue, has a need for control and power, driven by a hyper-inflated ego, as the main element of her personality.

That's according to Jerry Oppenheimer's gossipy unauthorized biography, "Front Row, Anna Wintour: The Cool Life and Hot Times of Vogue's Editor-in-Chief." The 364-page bio reveals a personality pattern that keeps repeating itself over the years. How did this pedigreed clotheshorse, a high school dropout with no journalistic or communication skills, become the highest-paid glossy magazine editor in the world (an estimate of \$2 million a year with bonuses from circulation gains)? What is it about Wintour that the local media is so enamored about that they would be—ahem—"inspired" by American Vogue?

Since her youth, Wintour has had a lust for control, along with a knack for strategies that would take her wherever she wanted to—to the top of the world, it turns out. Notorious for insubordination, she followed her own rules. She rebelled against authority figures—be it in school or at work. Possessing an aberrant desire for power, her mind was always focused on herself and turned off to others. This re-

sulted in turbulent professional and personal relationships. Because of her manipulative behavior, the author says, Wintour's relationships were really just superficial and vacuous connections. With her reputation for hidden agendas, she did not expose herself to anyone or build authentic relationships. She remained aloof, choosing to feed and protect her ego through clothes, perks, an expensive lifestyle, and dalliances with influential people. She was obviously not a team player, according to the book. Even as a junior fashion editor, Wintour insisted that things be done her way or not at all.

Sex as weapon

Oppenheimer also points out how sex had a pervasive influence on Wintour's mind. Aside from providing pleasure, sex gave her power over men. She divided her emotions into neat allotments that intensified her desire for material gain. Wintour used sex to forge connections and attain her career goals. One gets the impression that she buried her hardened self.

The information on Wintour's complicated personality supercedes her accomplishments. Yet, the fashion press worldwide, or at least in the Philippines, emulates American Vogue sensibilities. Wintour was more intuitive and perceptive than her colleagues—and more competitive.

She set trends, although some former workers claimed she got ideas from foreign magazines and also stole some of theirs while these were being pitched to her.

However, she was great in organization and paid attention to detail. In old journalistic parlance, the classic writer or editor is "busisero" or "busisera," one who goes beyond surfaces and digs in, and also has the ability to handle mentally cum-

lifestyle that has become the Filipino creed in marketing and soft news reporting. Her savvy earned the respect of designers, and advertisers longed to be associated with Vogue.

In essence, "Front Row" is about selfishness, which produces desires that are never satiated. It shows how desire robs the soul of dignity, leading as it does to jealousy, competition, hate, greed, etc. The desire

for fame, position, status symbol and public approval hampers one's ability to reason clearly. Wintour's colleagues had a constant fear of losing what they had attained. In every magazine she worked for, Wintour made no bones about jockeying for the higher position and threatening her superiors. In American Vogue, she blatantly told Grace Mirabella, then editor-in-chief, that she wanted her job. Wintour always managed to create upheaval wherever she worked. She seems addicted to the patterns of expectations from herself and society, so that she feels the only way to happiness is to be constantly calculating ways to fulfill those expectations by striving and fighting obstacles towards the goal.

More substantial

Frankly, I find Seth Mnookin's "Hard News: The Scandals at The

New York Times and Their Meaning for American Media" more substantial. The reputation of a venerable institution is being questioned. This book not only traces the NYT's biggest blunder of publishing a bogus investigative series; it also discusses the dynamics in the newsroom, the favoritism and factionalism especially during the reign of Howell Raines. This executive editor, who brought the NYT to its glory in the coverage of 9/11, followed by the embarrassment of Jayson Blair's deception, is portrayed as a tragic character with his idiosyncracies.

Any person working in a media organization would feel uncomfortable reading some parts. It also puts journalism standards today in proper perspective, noting its implications on the lives of the public, who are consumers of news.

In comparison, "Front Row" reads like a well-researched conversation that tends to be shallow (well, the fashion world is superficial anyway) just the same, and Wintour gets more than her share of disparagement.

While Raines appears human with all his frailties, Wintour comes across as wielding tentacles despite Oppenheimer's attempts to merely portray her complexity.

Throughout the book, it seems that Wintour can get away with justifying unethical behavior and killing the conscience without suf-

fering the consequences—oh, just a few enemies, that's all.

Real talents

Still waters run deep.

To me, great talents don't make a lot of noise or bask in the limelight. They are too busy focusing on their work. The result is that it touches your heart.

One of the country's best graphic designers Jose Chua remarked, "You don't read about great photographers and all the fancy adjectives that describe them. Their works speak for themselves." Indeed, some of these celebrity photographers produce technical images without any soul. Yet they get all the adulation.

Nap Jamir is one of the finest craftsmen in this field. He takes time off from his directing and cinematography to do a fashion pictorial again.

Chua and Jamir worked together in Shadow Visual, a trendy photography and design company in the n '80s. They came up with a simple, straightforward fashion shoot of expressive dancers, sporting a luxury watch. Chua's layout concept is what photography is all about—freezing the subjects in time.

The dancers, Isaac and Nino delos Reyes, are touted as superstars of the flamenco world. Like Chua and Jamir, you don't read about these siblings. When you see them perform, they literally shake up the ground.

Danny Katalbas, bonafide artist

Photo by Frank Hoefsmit

PAINTER Paul Klee once defined an artist as someone who "does nothing other than gather and pass on what comes to him from the depths." This is the best description for Emphasis salon's Isagani "Danny" Katalbas, who is more than a "senior stylist." His hair and makeup designs are prodigious works of art, culled from his imagination.

He draws inspiration from the world around him and connects to the enthralling phenomenon that he experiences through his senses. Whatever he appreciates as beauty is a gift—a guarantee that his expression of love upon the world and his art comes back to him in forms of creative opportunities and a house full of trophies.

The power of his imagination is reflected in his fantasy hair and makeup styles that offer exciting glimpses of his muse.

With more than 70 trophies in recognition of his work, Katalbas has earned the admiration of his peers and, for his unbridled imagination, caught the eye of top fashion photographers. When he joins a hair and makeup competition, he creates a whole story from the hair down to the costume and accessories.

The most recent was inspired by fire. The model's hairstyle emulated giant flames—actually 30 pieces of hair extensions gelled, flat-ironed and molded to look like they were on fire, colored in copper with tips in bright red and orange.

For the male model, who was a pedicab driver, Katalbas shaved the sides of the head and left locks on the crown and at the back. The hair could then be shaped like a Mohawk's or ironed and bundled together then teased to look like spikey pompons.

Katalbas studied pre-med at Ateño de Zamboanga. Instead of laboring on lab subjects, he preferred to create fancy hairstyles and do makeup.

Since his talent was too prodigious for the province, the self-taught aesthetician tried his luck in Metro Manila 15 years ago. He hooked up with esteemed makeup

mavens Jinky Illusorio and Patrick Rosas, doing pictorials and joining fashion shows.

He met Vicente "Teng" Roma, widely known for his hairdressing craftsmanship and business savvy. Roma offered Katalbas a more permanent job at the then BCBG salon. When Emphasis was being built, Roma would bring Katalbas to pictorials. Although his day job is haircutting and makeup, Katalbas' calling is making his fantasies come alive, with the help of the Emphasis team.

On seeing Katalbas' work, people forget the materials and crafts-

This hair designer is gifted with rare inspiration and imagination

manship, and confront a panorama of creativity made noticeable. He won one competition for a hair design inspired by a tribal totem pole. Four models hid in box that showed only their faces, painted like masks. The fourth model was painted in gold. Katalbas had to do the makeup in 30 minutes, perched on a ladder.

In another competition, he won for his Snow Queen entry. The model's hair was colored in bronze, gelled and molded around melted plastic, as though her hair and the plastic were one giant icicle. Her eyelashes were bold strokes of flat sequins.

Katalbas says concepts come naturally to him. Abstractionist Wassily Kandinsky couldn't have said it better: "The harmony of colors and forms must be based solely upon the principle of proper contact with the human soul."

The images by which Katalbas lives are brushed onto his mental canvas by good qualities that he exudes.

Jeffrey Moran, Katalbas' colleague at Emphasis and constant teammate in hair and makeup competitions, notes: "He's never selfish. He also makes it a point that you see the smallest details. There's always an explanation for everything that he does."

Katalbas once came up with a style in which the model's hair was made to look like a veil. The fastidious work required hours of weaving the hair into wire.

"Nothing is impossible for him. There's no limit to the imagination," says Moran.



MODEL Sunshine de Leon's hair is inspired by the intricate topknot of Indian deities. It is composed of twists and braids. Katalbas also designed the breastplate made of copper wire and stones.

Promote now, rule the world tomorrow

PHILIPPINE Fashion Week (PFW) is largely the turf of the media, leaders and workers in the fashion and beauty industries, their guests and the market. Through media hype, the event has generated public interest, inciting the organizers to discover more and better ways to whet the Filipinos' appetite for the latest trends.

Organized by Runway Productions, PFW prides itself in being the biggest and longest fashion event in the country, from March 28 to April 6.

There will be a press launch at the Ayala Museum, daily fashion shows at the Glorietta Activity Center, special events at Embassy Restaurant and Hotel Intercontinental and presentations of designer collections at NBC Tent.

Now in its eighth season, PFW has not only become a launching pad for lifestyle products; it also serves as a model for strategic alliances between fashion and consumer brands. The PFW's event sponsors are not traditional fashion or beauty brands but electronics. Sony Ericsson is now on its third year with PFW, following the success of previous launches.

Sony Philippines is coming in for the first time to introduce its Wega LCD TV. It will also present its new handcam, which will record the shows and instantly replay the footages; and Cybershot camera, which will capture candid moments and runway shots.

Through Fashion Week, brand exposure is maximized," says PFW executive producer Audie Espino.

Marketing tack

In 2003, Sony Ericsson's P800 was used as an accessory in a fashion show that had business leaders as models. It was the concept of Espino's brother, Joey, PFW's director. The show effectively illustrated how the product suited its target market. Last year its new camera phone, the K700, was used in PFW parties and runway shots.

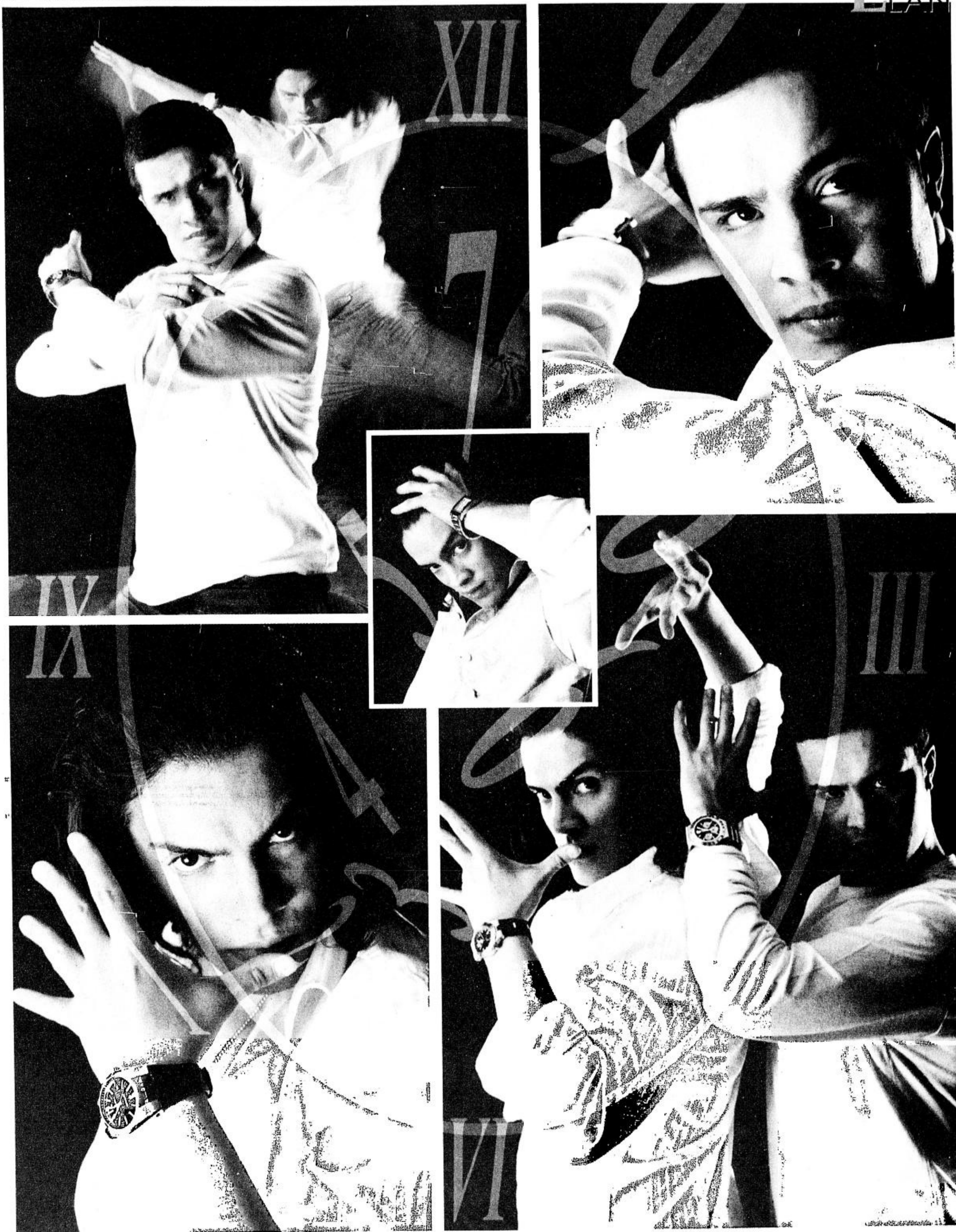
Wella has been presenting hair forecasts during PFW, and this year it launches new products during the Young Designers Group event at the NBC Tent. This follows a directive from Wella Germany, whose Trend Forecast is interpreted by various designers.

"These companies have found the right venue and the target audience for their products," says Espino. He adds that abroad, the participants with the bigger budgets get the large venues during Fashion Week. PPCF hires a publicist for pre- and post-event information dispatch. The major sponsors issue their own press statements.

Hotel Intercontinental Manila has been a long-time partner hotel of PFW. In the past it has been the venue for press launches and fashion shows. This year, it will present an exhibit celebrating the artistry of the late Joe Salazar.

Espino points out that the above-mentioned

PROMOTE/CJ



The wristwatch as a fashion barometer

Fashionable Filipinos each have from three to 10 timepieces in their wardrobes

Photos by Nap Jamir
Assisted by Jordan Arabejo
Art direction by Jose Chua
Execution by Ernie Sambo

THE CONTEMPORARY wristwatch is a fashion statement; its purpose as an extremely accurate timekeeping instrument is merely a presumption. Consumers select their wristwatches fastidiously, since these reflect their status in society. The timepiece also reads like a resumé, denoting the wearer's attributes and interests.

The wristwatch has been largely influenced by men's fashion. In the past, the pocket watch was designed to be worn with the vest and waistcoat. After World War I, the two-piece business suit became the preferred style and the wristwatch complemented the look.

As an appendage to fashion and identity,

the wristwatch comes in various forms, from the classic linear styles to the multi-functional timepieces, which display and log time to the jewel-encrusted dress watches.

Because a watch can update a look, much like a hairstyle, people have gotten into "watch wardrobing." For instance a sports watch goes with badminton shorts and shirt; a slim and elegant, leather strapped watch goes with office attire. Some watch wearers occasionally take the crossover approach, accessorizing Italian suits with a dive watch. Women sometimes wear their partner's clunky timepiece as an attention grabber.

The appeal of a fine wristwatch goes beyond speaking of punctuality.

With extremely sophisticated movements, mechanical watches are revered like cars. Luxury brand watches maintain multiple collections: the chronograph, a

watch that records time; the multiple time zone or pilot's watch features the local time, Greenwich Mean Time and that of another city; the diver's waterproof watch, favored by those into active sports; even some complicated watches that measure speed for cars, sailing knots and moon phases.

Some watches feature interesting dials, subsidiary seconds and a calendar or even skeletal dials that show movement. Was it yellow gold mixed with stainless steel or a colored dial? Some have big faces and thick bands; others, bright-colored accents outside of the classic brown or black band and metal links. The weight of the watch will depend on the metal used. Stainless steel would be heavy, while titanium, the material used for airplanes, is light. Let's not even talk about the bracelet and strap combinations using crocodile leather or rubber, or titanium.

The current trend is big watches—the bigger, the better. As a status symbol, the watch doesn't come cheap. A lot of premium is placed on the casing—the more stylish, the better—and, more important, the name of the brand or designer carried on the dial.

Mario Katigbak of Horology Jewelry Center Inc. says the Philippines has a big market for luxury brands. He explains: "More people would invest in a watch. For the young people, it's the first splurge." Purchasing their first luxury watch is like an initiation into the social establishment.

Katigbak estimates that Filipino men keep an average of three to five watches, and he knows of some who have as many as 10 in their watch wardrobe. He observes that Asians love watches more than Westerners do. "If you walk around Hong Kong or Singapore, there's a watch store in every corner, unlike in, say, New York. In Gloriet-

ta, there must be at least 20 stores selling watches."

ÉLAN asked Isaac and Nino delos Reyes, young superstars of the flamenco world, to sport luxury wristwatches. You'll know more about them in a future issue.

As Isaac walked to the set with one strapped to his wrist, he was told, "Hey, that's expensive!" He shot back emphatically, "You mean the person wearing the watch is expensive." LOL!

(Isaac and Nino delos Reyes are guest teachers this weekend at the Fundacion Centro Flamenco, 8463 Rockwell Drive Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For details, call 751-2243.)

Credits:
Models: Isaac and Nino delos Reyes
Grooming: Lourd Ryan Ramos, Emphasis Salon
Watches: Bvlgari

Promote now, rule the world tomorrow

From page C1

global companies think of PFW as a strategic partnership. He says it's not the case with other companies here that don't think about the long-term build-up of a brand.

"They're more concerned about what they do with their budgets this year, not how they would build product image effectively. [Sometimes] it's a choice between a sports game or a concert," he says.

Unlike in previous years, PFW 2005 has less participation of local fashion brands. Diadora, an Italian sportswear brand, hopes to make a big splash through PFW. Espino observes that local manufacturers don't believe in a fashion week that presents seasonal forecasts, coupled with astute marketing strategy and long production time. Also, the Filipino to-each-his-own mentality could be the reason that local brands would rather produce their own shows than join Fashion Week. Nonetheless, Ayala Center's ready-to-wear brands will be featured at the Glorietta Activity Center. Since last year, PFW has

moved its focus from brands to designer collections at the NBC Tent. "We are giving them the platform. It's time for us to witness how good Filipino designers are."

Espino points out that exposure gives designers credibility. He cites Dojie Batu, a designer from Davao, who rose from obscurity after joining PFW.

When Espino's EsAc, a made-to-measure label in Sydney, was attached to Fashion Week two years ago, the public's curiosity was stirred.

"That's the point. If you don't promote now, how will others know about it?" he says.

Synergy

With the trend of synergy between the print and broadcast medium, Runway ran a successful season of a magazine show, "Mode + I" in 2002.

Television not only gave additional mileage to PFW participants; it also informed the public of the major players. PFW

was featured in Studio 23 and the Lifestyle Network as a special series.

Now the magazine version of "Mode + I," will be launched, and will serve as the official program of PFW. It was also born out of the need to use materials collated from Runway's coverage of international fashion weeks.

Espino says the event has grown in numbers. PFW will feature 80 designers from all over the country. In PR value, PFW has generated P10 million worth of free publicity from print media alone. He adds that the publicity helps justify sponsorship from global brands.

The executive producer admits that PFW is still a long way to go. Unlike other countries, Fashion Week is in partnership with government agencies and the garment trade. Abroad, Fashion Week has helped increase sales in retail outlets and provide huge employment opportunities.

"We are not structured like Hong Kong or Australia," he admits. "We are just an exhi-



AUDIE Espino, Philippine Fashion Week is an advocacy.

bition. It will take time before the industry realizes all that need to be done." He reiterates his battle cry: "If we don't have platform now, how can Manila be known, hopefully by the whole world, as a fashion center in Asia?"

Marge C. Enriquez

'Beauty Holiday' launched

TRAVELPROS and New Life Center have launched "Beauty Holiday," a tour package that combines cosmetic surgery and holiday travel in the Philippines.

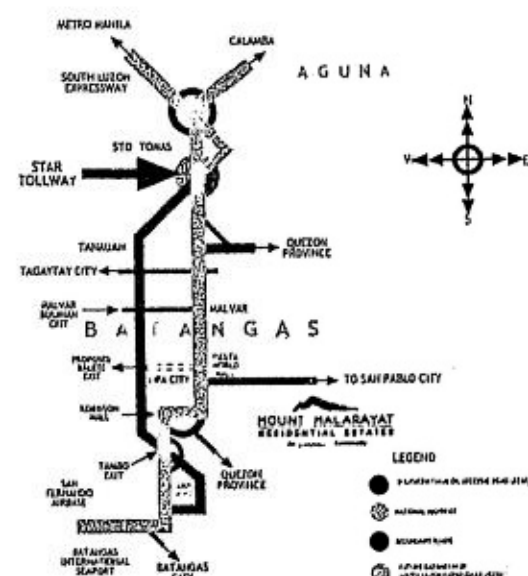
It consists of several packages, starting with a three-day stay inclusive of land transportation, airport transfers, pre-surgery consultation, medical tests with New Life Center doctors. The package also offers infertility work-up, ovulation induction, artificial insemination and embryo transfer. The clients likewise get makeovers at Ricky Reyes salons.

All the cosmetic and fertility procedures are performed by board-certified surgeons from New Life Center.

After surgery, the clients can stay at a private beach resort in Calatagan, Batangas; Fairways and Bluewaters in Boracay, a deluxe hotel and a day at the Manila Southwoods or a mountain resort or private cottage either in Tagaytay or Baguio. For details, call 634-0265 to 66, 631-6392, 634-3109.



ENJOY ALL THESE DESTINATIONS IN ONE PLACE.



THE
SUITES
AT
MOUNT MALARAYAT

Gracious living.
Contemporary lifestyles.
World-class pleasures
and more.

Be a part of the Suites life
within the Mount Malarayat
Golf & Country Club and
Residential Estates in
Lipa, Batangas.

Studio units now nearing completion!

ACTIVEGROUP
INCORPORATED

Call 893 7024 for inquiries • Email: sales@activegroup.com.ph • Log on to www.activegroup.com.ph

Late night dining & entertainment come alive at Araneta Center

Among food enthusiasts and gastronomic trippers, there's a place in Quezon City that's fast regaining its reputation as an excellent place to enjoy a wide selection of great food, cozy ambiance and night entertainment — Araneta Center.

That's right! Araneta Center has been gaining ground as "the" hottest late night dining destination in the metro.

Strolling around Araneta Center, one will surely notice the extensive array of restaurants and food outlets dotting the area long after the sun has gone down. From the Shopwise Strip with its numerous fastfood joints, to the charm of the Coliseum Circle and the cosmopolitan ambiance of the newly opened Gateway Mall. Araneta Center has fully emerged as the most accessible place to satisfy your late night cravings.

At the Gateway Mall, world-class casual dining and cozy cafes take you to a different level of gastronomic enjoyment. From light snacks at night or a big scrumptious meal, the Gateway Mall never runs out of surprisingly delightful offerings.

Enjoy the world's best tacos at Taco Bell, which serves the tastiest burritos and nachos in town. For discriminating lovers of Italian food, Gateway Mall has Pizza Hut Bistro, Cibo and Italianni's. For unique American cuisine, Burgoo presents an endless selection of mouth-watering burgers, salads and more. For Chinese dishes, there's the newly-opened Super Bowl Of China. Of course, fans of Filipino food will forever flock to Max's for their fill of well-loved Pinoy dishes.

Along the periphery of the Coliseum Circle, the nocturnal food trip goes round and round. There's the ever-popular Dencio's grill and bar and Rasa, which serves the best Singaporean cuisine. Walking further down, one will find the chic Japanese resto Sachi, Gloria Maris which offers the best Chinese dishes and Istanbul Express where one can savor authentic Turkish and Mediterranean fare. Of course, not to be missed is Café Bola, which boasts of nouveau Pinoy cuisine.

But if you're still longing for the comfort of familiar places serving well-loved, tried-and-tested fares, Gateway Mall boasts of Manila's all-time favorite dining place, the trailblazing Café Adriatico and of course, the best-known Philippine bar in the world, Café Havana. For great seafood and succulent oysters flown fresh daily from the South, head off to Oyster Boy at the Shopwise Strip.

Nightlife proves to be much more alive at the Araneta Center with Padi's Point and comedy bar Klownz.

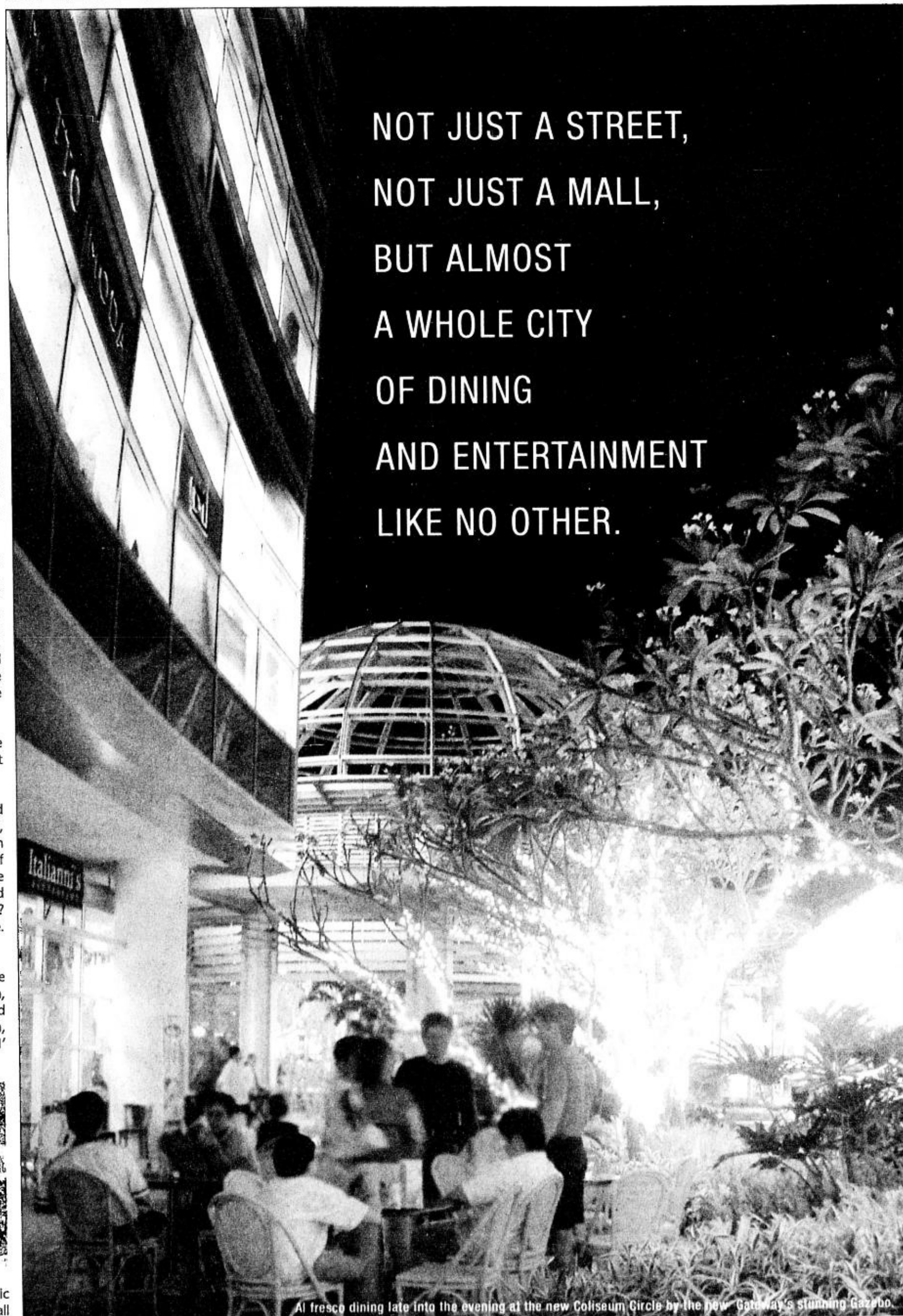
Of course, after enjoying great food among great company during night-time, it just feels right to relax and enjoy a warm cup of brew at Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf (Gateway Mall), Gloria Jeans (Shopwise Strip) or at Starbucks (Coliseum Circle). And what's great coffee without doughnuts? There's Go Nuts Donuts at Coliseum Circle.

Fastfood? The Shopwise Strip is the place to go. There's Kentucky Fried Chicken, Wendy's, Subway, Red Ribbon, Bacolod Inasal Chicken, Pancit ng Taga Malabon, Ice Monster, Hotshots, Dimsum N' Dumplings and Nach-O-Fast.



Araneta Center knows that music and good food is a perfect combo that all food lovers adore. To make the dining experience more fulfilling and enjoyable, Araneta Center has been coming up lately with superb musical events like the recent "A Passion for Jazz" featuring jazz sensations Mishka Adams, Skarlet and Isha. Expect even more musical festivities to make your dining experience a truly memorable one at Araneta Center in the near future.

Head off to Araneta Center and see for yourself why it's fast becoming the favorite destination of late-night diners looking for excellent food choices, cozy ambiance and fun entertainment.



NOT JUST A STREET,
NOT JUST A MALL,
BUT ALMOST
A WHOLE CITY
OF DINING
AND ENTERTAINMENT
LIKE NO OTHER.

At fresco dining late into the evening at the new Coliseum Circle by the new Gateway's stunning Gazebo.

GATEWAY DINING Pizza Hut Bistro, Taco Bell, Italianni's, Café Havana, Café Adriatico, Max's, Burgoo, Cibo, Super Bowl of China, Figaro, Mandarin Oriental Café
Food Express: Dimsum & Dumplings, Inihaw Express, Jumbo Japs, Kimchi, Steak Escape, Tang City Burger King, Nescafé Café, Big Chill
COLISEUM CIRCLE DINING & ENTERTAINMENT Gloria Maris, Rasa, Dencio's, Sachi, Go Nuts Donuts, Café Bola, Istanbul, Starbucks, Klownz, Padi's Point
SHOPWISE ARCADE (Gen. Aginaldo Ave.) Oyster Boy, Gloria Jean's, Hot Shots, Millenium Café, Wendy's, McDonald's, KFC, Dimsum & Dumplings, Nach-O-Fast, Wendy's, Subway, Red Ribbon, Ice Monster, Bacolod Inasal Chicken,
ALI MALL DINING Trattoria Uno, Barrio Fiesta, Pizza Hut, Tokyo Tokyo, Le Coeur de France, Fat Choi, Lino's, Bellaroma Café, Chowking, Jollibee, Country Style Donuts, Frio Mixx, McDonald's, Shakey's
FARMERS PLAZA DINING Greenwich, Popeye's, Pizza Hut, Goldilocks, Tropical Hut, Jollibee, McDonald's, Chowking, Batangas Kitchen

Araneta Center

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2005

Super! Countdown

16 days 'til

style • urban living •

PHILIPPINE DA... NO... REF...



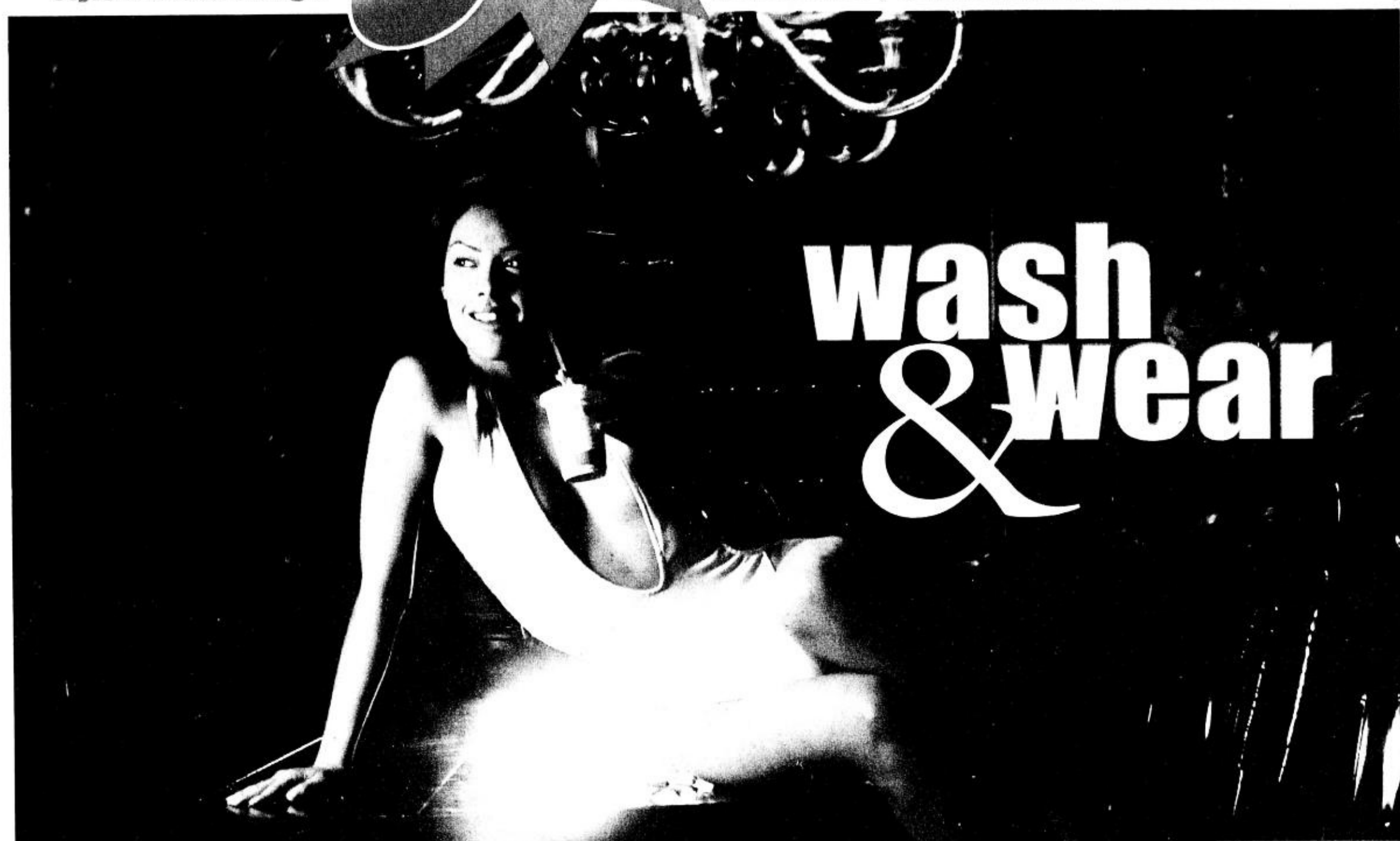
DI

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback:
Inquirer sup home/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap



pop culture • entertainment • recreation



wash & wear

Cindy Kurleto
slips into some
Loungerie page F1

Saluting the sun
in **Dos Palmas,**
Palawan page G2

Eddie Boy page E1
Escudero
in focus

Tita Glo page D3
goes tribal

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: XANDER ANGELES
Makeup: YZA PALMERO
of Shu Uemura
Cover Star: CINDY KURLETO wears
Loungerie by Celine Lopez

BRENTVILLE INTERNATIONAL

A Fully Completed World-Class development.

Live a charmed life inside Brentville International, a fully completed development of Filinvest Land, Inc. From tastefully designed homes, to distinctive clusters, carefully planned features and amenities, Brentville International has it all.

Perfect Location

- 5 minutes to Pavillion Mall
- 10 minutes to Filinvest Corporate City
- 30 minutes to Makati Business District
- 30 minutes to Tagaytay

World-Class Features and Amenities

- 22 m tree-lined main road and 14 m secondary road
- Underground utilities including power distribution and communications system
- Main Clubhouse with swimming pool
- Exclusive gate and amenities per cluster
- Brent International School is located within the community
- Access to Brent School amenities for lot buyers
- Privileged access to The Palms Country Club in Filinvest Corporate City for Prominence II buyers

Satisfaction to own

Have your own prestigious address inside Brentville International and experience world-class living instantly. A few remaining lots and house and lots are available. Expatriates can also have their own home at Prominence II, the unique manor-like cluster homes inside Brentville.

HOW TO GET THERE:

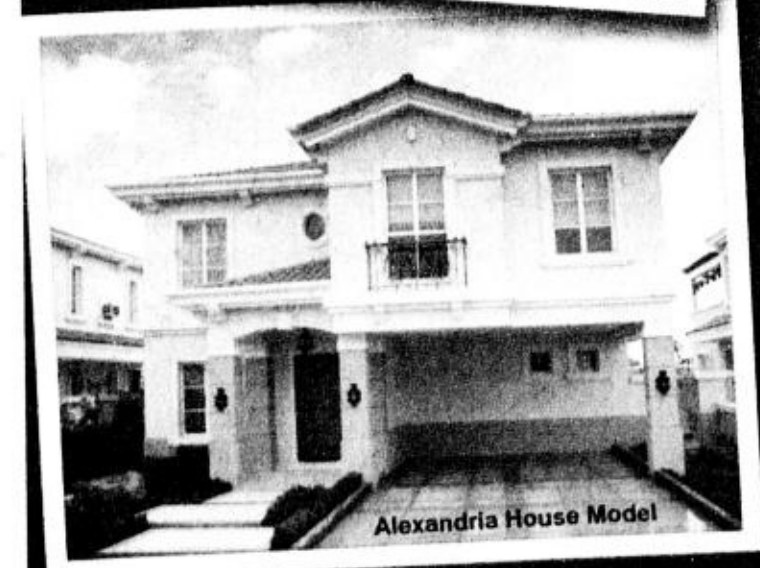
From South Luzon Expressway, take the Mamplasan Exit. From the toll gate, turn left and 200 meters away, you will find Brentville International.



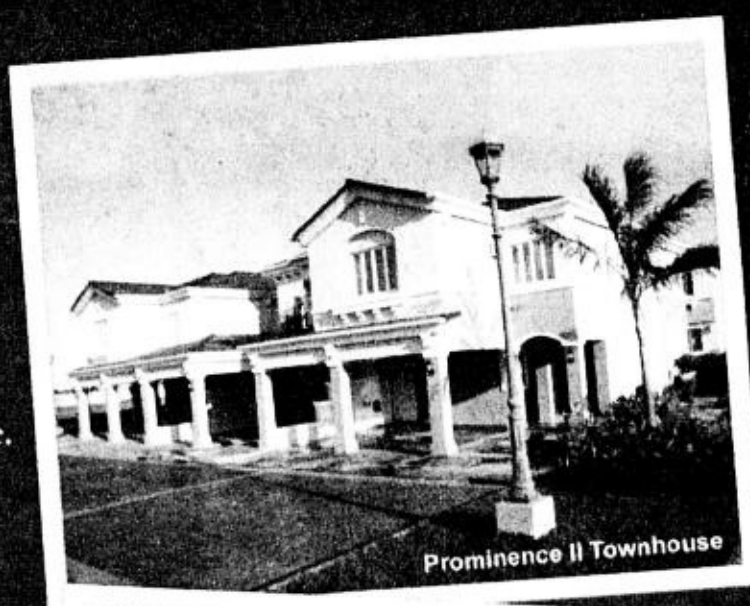
Brentville Main Clubhouse



Prominence Community



Alexandria House Model



Prominence II Townhouse



Kids' Play Room

FILINVEST

INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

www.brentville.com

(049) 511-6055 (02) 840-4714

License to Sell No. 04837-R4-02-03

Surprisingly affordable!
P9,500* per sqm. only

Only 10% Down Payment
0% Interest 4 years to pay*

Until March 31, 2005 only

*Conditions apply.



Boob tube baby

Growing up on this side of the screen, one can only pick up mixed signals

By Pepe Diokno
Original artwork by Jason Moss

OUR GENERATION grew up with television. We all remember Pong Pagong and Kiko Matsing and the APO Hiking Society in a noontime show. We were all watching when Noli de Castro was still respectable as an anchor and Inday Badiday had this show called "Eye-to-Eye." We all took in what we saw on TV—many times without grown-ups noticing and only *yaya* by our side.

Less than a decade later, kids started canoodling with more than just Kiko Matsing and Big Bird. Unnoticed, as *yaya* watches TV, kids began taking in sex videos, the *Hotmen*, *D' Bodies*, *Boy Abunda* and *Lolo Vic Sotto*. More serious than that, we were also exposed to lies. Lies, grand acts of fakery, stories made up just to get ratings, cheap gimmickry force fed

to kids. It seems that what's true doesn't count anymore.

Twisted version of the truth

We've seen a singer have his armpit hair plucked out in a game show, Willie Revillame have more than enough of his share of air-time, "beauties" plucked from streets to dance the same three steps over and over again for an hour at noon.

We've discovered the meaning of *estafa*, *libel*, *slander*, and *assault*—all due to their prominent displays on air. We've seen *politicos* turn on their word, *artistas* who are anything but true artists, and a man with a big nose screaming "Pia, Pia!" on a news show. This has become TV for us.

The tragedy of all this is that just as we all believed Pong Pagong was an actual turtle, kids will believe these lies. In a society where we witness twisted versions of the truth, it isn't easy to just say "Don't believe everything you see."

Different dictators

Before we were born, when Marcos

squeezed the life out of our country like a boa constrictor, he censored the media and forced them to show only things that made him look good. This wasn't merely censorship—it was essentially lying to the public. Today, the censorship and the lying are still around, except it's done by different dictators.

It's ironic that films like "Schindler's List" were censored, while *chika* lies were left untouched. We were shoved into a world where in plunging necklines are more dangerous than truth-bending gimmicks.

Parental guidance

The TV is our only peephole to the outside world. At 14, when you think you know the answer, you realize what we need is people to guide us. All we need are parents. We need parents to take over TV. We need parents to take over print. We need parents to take over the government.

Real parents, please.

Because if you, *Ethel Booba*, had kids, would you not apologize for any inconvenience you might have caused us instead of putting your name out-/slash-/denying all alle-

gations? If you, *chika* hosts, had kids, wouldn't you spare yourselves the trouble of having to explain to your five-year olds what these things you talk about are?

Tuning out

At 5, 15, or 20, you don't need hands to cover your eyes; you need hearts to change what you see. Mrs. Laguardia, stop what you think is important censorship, and start making stars change attitudes, not outfits. At 5, 15, or 20, we need parents to guide us while we open our eyes.

But for now, there are no parents. I feel exactly like those kids in the "Lemony Snicket" movie. We're orphans, who by a series of unfortunate events, are forced to live with adults who aren't parents.

The only thing we can do is make a sanctuary for ourselves, a place where we can breathe. The sanctuary I made for myself was me turning the TV off. Because if they aren't going to change anything, we can't let them take over our brains.

Email: pepe@greenarcher.net



Winning caption: "The Malabon Zoo Scandal"
Sender: Ramon V. Eustaquio

Oh caption, my caption

By Tals Diaz and Gino de la Paz

PACK your bags, and better yet, pack your sweetheart, Ramon Eustaquio! You've won a little weekend getaway for two at the Holiday Inn at Clark, Pampanga! You're now on top of the pecking order, after besting heaps of entries from all over the map with your four winning words. Hooray! Give our Marketing Department a ring, look for Hazel and claim your prize, you studmuffin! Uuuuuyyy...

Of course, we can't help but monkey around some more with the following captions:

"Meet the Peckers"
Sender: Marie Fernandez

"Chick to Cheek"
Sender: Jonathan D. Bendebe

"AnimalOVAPALOOZA"
Sender: Elizabeth Servino

This Week's Challenge

Well hello, hello! Look do we have here? In case you're not aware, we just quoted Ate Vi. And by doing so, we really went off topic. But anyway, who is sporting the latest in tribal fashion chic? It's none other than our very own Madam Prez! Yo Tita Glo, where da party at?

Not content to don what looks like a patchwork of rasta snowflakes by way of Benguet, she went all out and got herself the ultimate tribal accessory... could it be? Are indigenous dudes the new brooches? Okay, before we breach more boundaries of political correctness (we think that ship has already sailed, though), we'll leave it up to you to churn out more hirts in exchange for Super! goodies. Remember, keep it clean, y'all. As usual, send those captions to super@inquirer.com.ph or send inquirer sup name/city/caption to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart.



Super!'s caption: Bahag Lady



IT'S HUNTING SEASON AT THE SHANG!

Celebrate a fun-filled Easter that will showcase your kids' creativity and love for adventure! Grab cool freebies and goodies in the exciting egg hunt and other thrilling games to jumpstart the merry festivities!

Easter Kiddie Corner

*Free Face Painting
*Free Balloon Twisting with Party Fantasy
March 19-20, 2-4pm
Level 4, Kids Zone

Bring the Biggest and the Smallest Easter Bunny Contest

March 27, 2-4pm Level 2, Grand Atrium

MECHANICS:

1. Bring the smallest or biggest Easter bunny (made of ceramic, paper mache, or stuffed toy) on Easter Sunday between 2-4pm on March 27. NO LIVE BUNNIES.
2. Judging will be held at the Grand Atrium, Level 2 on the same day.
3. Two winners will be chosen for both the smallest and the biggest Easter bunny. Winners will receive special prizes.

Easter Storytelling Session with the Alitaptap Storytellers Club

*Craft Activity and Games
March 20, 3-4pm
Level 4, Art Plaza

Easter Kiddie Salon

March 27, 1-5pm
Level 2, Grand Atrium

Easter Egg Hunt

March 27, 1-4pm
Level 2, Grand Atrium

HOW TO JOIN:

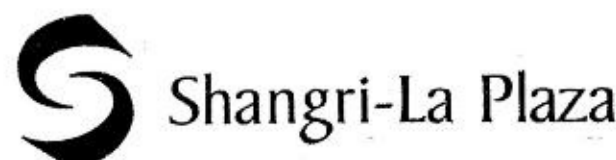
1. Open to kids 2-12 years old with either parent as partner. The hunt is open to parent-child teams. Children from ages 2 to 12 can join, with their mom or dad as partners.
2. Register at the Administration Office, Level 5 of the Shangri-La Plaza, from March 5 to 25, 2005.
3. Registration fee is P150 per parent-child team. First-come, first-served basis. Only the first 150 teams can participate. No refunds.
4. Assembly time is at 1-1:30pm on March 27 at Level 2, Grand Atrium.
5. The hunt will begin at exactly 2pm and end at 4pm.
6. Each qualified team automatically receives a goodie bag.
7. Employees of Shangri-La Plaza Corporation, participating sponsors, suppliers, and advertising agency, including their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the Easter Egg Hunt.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Participants will be divided into 3 groups.
2. Each parent-child team will be assigned a color and given an Easter Egg Hunt map and a bag of goodies.
3. Teams will visit the stores indicated in the map and collect one (1) egg from each store.
4. The egg will have a colored sticker with the store's name. This sticker should be placed on the right spot in the map.
5. When the teams have collected all the eggs and have placed all the stickers on the map, they must return to the validation table located at the Grand Atrium.
6. Prizes will be given to the first 10 teams with validated maps.



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY CENTER

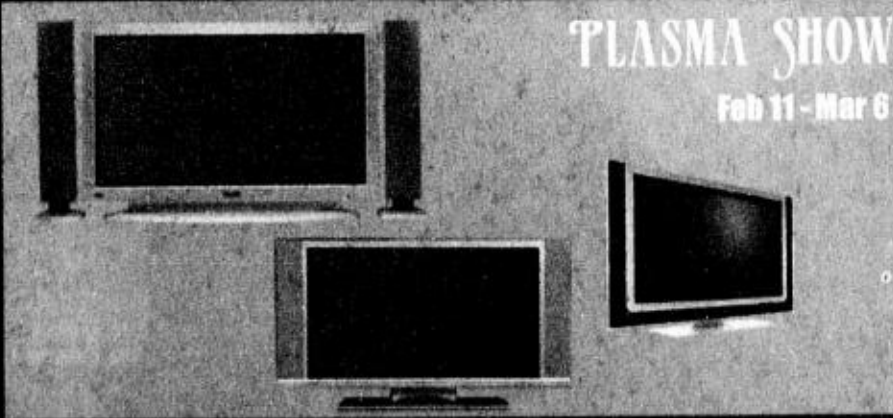


SA DAMI NG PAGPIPILIAN, MARAMING MAPUPUSUAN!

'Sanlibong stalls ang naghihintay sa inyo sa GSC ngayong buwan ng mga puso!



JEWELRY FAIR
Feb 11 - Mar 6



PLASMA SHOW
Feb 11 - Mar 6

Ngayong Valentine's, 'di ka na mauubusan ng pang-regalo. Dahil mula Feb. 11 to March 06, 1,000 stalls of assorted shopping items ang naghihintay sa iyo. May Plasma Show featuring the latest flat screen TVs and other hi-tech audio-video equipment para kay Papa, may Jewelry Fair pa na siguradong maiibigan ni Mama.





A GREAT THING MADE EVEN BETTER

GLOBE GCASH

MORE SERVICES, MORE PARTNERS

From payments to purchases, international remittance to domestic money transfer, G-Cash has ignited our imagination to no end. Today, we evolve it even further. Now you can make donations, pay for various government services and buy load credits via G-Cash. Soon, rural folk can receive and pay their loans with this service.

All these, together with the honor of being chosen as the **Best Mobile Messaging Service** by the GSM Awards 2005 in France, we offer to the Filipinos. With the help of a growing number of partners, we continue our commitment to find new and better ways to make lives easier and strengthen the ties that bind us all.

**G-Cash. Gawang Pilipino. Para sa Pilipino.
Hinahangaan sa buong mundo.**

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING PARTNERS

G-CASH PAYMENTS VIA TEXT

Pay for goods and services via G-Cash. Now accepted at these establishments: Burger King • Max's (Delivery) • National Bookstore • Mercury Drug • Sure Seats • ABS-CBN Interactive • E-2 Door • Superferry

New Partners: Shakey's (Dine-in & Take-out in selected outlets & Delivery) • Jollibee (Delivery) • Goldilocks (selected branches) • Executive Optical • Gold's Gym (pay for entrance fee) • Fully Booked • Bibliarch • BIR (business registration renewal) • Filipino Doctors Health Alliance • Urban Spa • UP Engineering Research & Dev't Foundation • Westin Philippine Plaza (room reservation) • Manson Drug (selected branches) • Montage • Sketch Books • Chris Sports Equipment • Ortigas Home Depot

G-CASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE

The fast and secure way of sending remittance via text. Friends and families abroad can go to any of these partners to exchange their cash to G-Cash: iRemit Global Remittance (Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Australia, UK, Taiwan) • Gen-Ex Cargo (Hong Kong) • Fareast Express Remittance Ltd. (Hong Kong, UK) • CGNCOM S.r.l. (Italy) • RFC Ltd. (Hong Kong)

New Partners: Philippine Tropical Express (Canada) • Global Peso Express (Canada)

G-CASH DOMESTIC MONEY TRANSFER

Now you can send G-Cash anywhere in the Philippines through these partners: Globe Telecom Business Centers • Globelines Payments and Services Centers • the Hub Cebuana Lhuillier • LBC • Prime Asia Pawn and Jewelry Shop, Inc. • Tambunting MTO Pawnshop • 7-11 (CASH-IN only)

New Partners: Aboitiz One, Inc. (2GO Cash Delivery) • SM Supermalls • Wealth Bank • Tambunting JPT Pawnshop • Metro Gaisano

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING MGA SERBISYO

LOAN PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH

With the help of the Rural Bankers Assoc. of the Phils. (RBAP), soon it will be easier and more convenient for the rural folk to get and pay their loans without traveling long distances.

CHARITY CONTRIBUTIONS VIA G-CASH

You can now make donations or contributions to UNICEF, RED CROSS and the PHIL. SPORTS COMMISSION via G-Cash.

G-CASH LOAD

With G-Cash, you can now load your own or someone else's cellphone with ease.

SERVICES PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH

Pay for services offered by government agencies like the BIR, and soon Phil-health, without even leaving your home.

GAMING VIA G-CASH

Now you can pay for your RAGNAROK online playing time using G-Cash.

Text G-CASH and send to 2882

Go to any Globe Telecom Business Center, present a valid ID and exchange your cash to G-Cash.

proud to make great things possible for the Filipino



Globe

HANDYPHONE

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Party Boy Escudero

Images from the archives of Eddie Boy Escudero.

MY ENTRY into the party scene started with Eddie Boy Escudero.

Before I got to go inside any dance club, his party scene snapshots accompanied by Larry Leviste's textual forays into the decadent world was the best introduction to a world I would eventually inhabit and call my own.

More than a decade has passed and Eddie Boy still entralls the public with his images—of youth in wild abandon, pretty girls, pretty boys, the tongue pierced, the tattooed, the good, the bad and the ugly—all who become beautiful in front of Eddie Boy's lens.

His eye for delicious detail and for elusive moments capture both the glam and the goth with equal ease and reverence.

Every hip, young, sexy, irreverent, famous, notorious, party hopping, pill-popping person in Manila must have been sniped by Eddie Boy's camera—the one and only visual chronicler of the city's ever-evolving nightscape.

For him, it's about the human body, emotions—the present moment—stamina, magnetism, bliss, perpetual motion, pumping music, pumping muscles, sensuality, sexuality—Eddie Boy style.

Make you high

"Hold it! Gimme that pose!" You'll

Tim Yap

hear him scream from across the room and you'll have no choice but to obey. Once Eddie Boy puts you in his spell, you become a willing slave. Click! A wave of hypnotic flash blinds your sight and Escudero escapes and spots his next prey.

Pardon the predator-prey metaphor. It really goes beyond that. Eddie Boy energizes the party scene with his presence as much as the party scene energizes him. It's a symbiotic love-love relationship that will last more than a lifetime, as these images convey the story of our generation.

The best part is, Eddie Boy Escudero has not touched anything intoxicating in ages—he shoots on a sober note, and comes out with images that will make you high.

When not shooting inebriated souls, Eddie Boy does wedding photography—as capturing the essence of celebrations is really his forte—a party being a bonding moment between two or more souls, anyway. His upcoming Silver Lens Gallery exhibit, 'When We Danced,' opening this Tuesday, is long overdue. I hope he comes out with a book next.

Now let's dance to that.

PARTY/E2



It's not just a Credit Card



It's 0% interest on ALL appliances* with Citibank PayLite.

Exclusively available at:

Basta+ Appliance.  **ABENSON**
All About Appliances.

February 18 to March 13, 2005



*0% Rate is available on 0% interest rate for up to 12 months. For any single or accumulated amount of all bank products. See website for details. Subject to credit review. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Citibank PayLite program. Offer valid from February 18 to March 13, 2005. See website for details. For 0% interest rate, you must activate the Citibank PayLite program.

PayLite
INSTALLMENT PLAN



citibank



Party Boy Escudero

Eddie Boy chronicles the city's ever-evolving nightscape

From page E1

The thing about fame is that... it hides from me. The thing I love most about what I do is that... I get paid to shoot really gorgeous women. People might be surprised to know that... I'm 50.

The most important thing I've ever learned is that... the earth is really our mother. I wish when I started off I've been told... to shoot with both eyes open.

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that... I wasn't born Tim Yap. And what taught this to me was... when I found out that he co-owns Embassy.

The secret to happiness is... a simple life. My best ever outfit consisted of... a black t-shirt and a pair of black jeans.

My Super! Saturday night consists of... shooting somebody's wedding.

The soundtrack to my life would include... "Oohlala" by the Small Faces.

If I was invisible for a day... I would be Harry Potter under his cloak or Frodo wearing the ring. The thing that makes me most angry is... the hypocrisy that surrounds us.

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I'd be very famous.

The best thing about family is that... you're never bored.

When I'm gone, they'll probably say... where'd he go?

If money was no option... then I'd have retired already.

When I retire, I would like... to continue shooting beautiful women.

The world would be a much better place if... they legalized "it."

My hero is... Helmut Newton

The things that make my life worth living are... my family and friends.

My greatest hope for the future is... Mikey Arroyo.

The worst thing somebody said about me was... not true.

My favorite moments are when... my camera captures them.

My most embarrassing moment was when... I was born naked.

I'm saving up for... a new lens and another digital body.

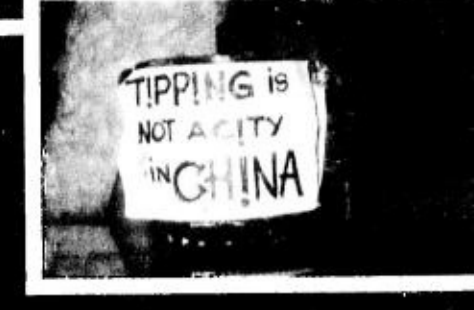
My biggest indulgence is... food consumption.

My current state of mind is... panic! I never know what to do with questions like these.

If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... Vhong Navarro.

My 5 favorite words are... you will shoot my wedding.

I aspire to be... everybody's wedding photographer.





Celine Artechn

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Celine is a very active person. She is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Robby Navarrete

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Robby is a very active person. He is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Proqua

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Proqua is a very active person. She is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Joyce de Leon

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Joyce is a very active person. She is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Robin Hwan

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Robin is a very active person. He is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Anna Mendez

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Anna is a very active person. She is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Baylene

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Baylene is a very active person. She is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. She is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.



Pacifino

21 years old, a student of the University of the Philippines, Pacifino is a very active person. He is a member of the National Student Council and is also a member of the National Student League. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges. He is a very active person and is always looking for new challenges.

Want to be on Superfriends? Email me your pictures at david_milan@lycos.com

Superfriends

Text and photos by David Milan

Need to print term papers, reports, office documents...

NO problemo!
with the Canon PIXMA iP1000

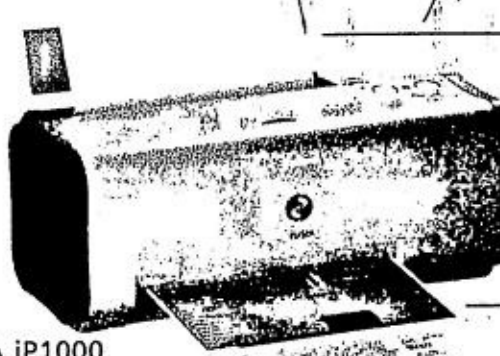
Canon
Delighting You Always



Canon brings you a treat you don't want to miss!

Get a **FREE Knapsack** when you purchase a Canon PIXMA printer.

You will surely go crazy with this amazing treat.



PIXMA iP1000
• 4800 x 1200 dpi/5 pl
• 14 ppm B&W/11 ppm colour
• 4" x 6" borderless prints in approx. 55 sec.
• Borderless printing up to 5" x 7"



PIXMA
REDEFINE YOUR PRINTING EXPERIENCE

Promo period is from **February 1 to March 31, 2005**
Promo available in all Canon dealers nationwide.

Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.

2F Marvin Plaza Bldg., 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue, cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City • Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797
E-mail address: info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

DEALERS: A2000, Inc. SM North 925-4565 Accent Micro Products SM North 426-9829 Acenel Inc. SM North 426-4278 Accumax International Inc. Caloocan 330-7696 Asiatic Inc. SM Megamall 683-0407 Axis Computer-Giga Buy & Best Buy Makati 894-2671 Blass Edward's Inc. Kalayaan 434-4967 BPL Computer Sales Manila 303-0710 Complex 528-4337 Columbia/Proton SM Megamall 526-7889 Complink Marketing Inc. SM Megamall 631-6958 Creative Technology Inc. Manila 253-8632 Datacore Computers ATC 842-1021 Datahouse Computer Gilmore 721-3311 Dynamic Personal Computer SM North 426-3543 Dreamchum Computer / PC Specialist SM North 410-2065 EDP Entry Data Point SM Megamall 633-6367 Electroworld SM North 634-8868 Great Lake Computer SM North 952-1177 Hyltech Integrated Duzon City 722-0099 Infomax Megamall 914-6000 Inteworx, Inc. Makati 897-5147 Massavere Corporation Shaw 635-0528 Microexpress Computer SM North 926-8948 Microsmith Technologies Inc. Manila 564-5562 Microstation SM North 928-3502 NT Computers 927-2579 PC Chain 925-2228 PC City Gilmore 705-1326 PC Corner Gilmore 723-1718 PC Domain Inc. SM Fairview 937-6224 PC Express Gilmore 727-0985 PC Gilmore Gilmore 726-8966 PC House Gilmore 721-3311 PC Madness Gilmore 724-8472 PC Quarters Greenhills 721-2941 PC Supplies Corp. Paranaque 852-4291 PC Options Gilmore 721-2480 PC Outlet Glorietta 892-3716 Premium Logic/ Premium PC Depot Gilmore 705-1673 Silicon Valley SM North 371-6944 Sim Computer Sales Makati 896-0170 Starapple Computer Discount Warehouse SM Southmall 800-7026 TCA SM Megamall 672-1900 Total Quality Machines IN. Manila 400-2306 Villman Computer Systems Inc. Makati 892-2222 Wispy Trading Makati 899-0351 Xytrix Systems Pasig 916-6015 Ynzal Marketing Corp. QC 375-2489

Get Ready for Manila's First International Circuit Party

Circuit Asia

April 28 - May 1, 2005

Music by:
DJ Kimberly S
DJ Brett Henrichsen
DJ Gomi

Live Performance by:
Kevin Aviance

Special Thanks to:



icon

bed



JobsDB.com

LEMON

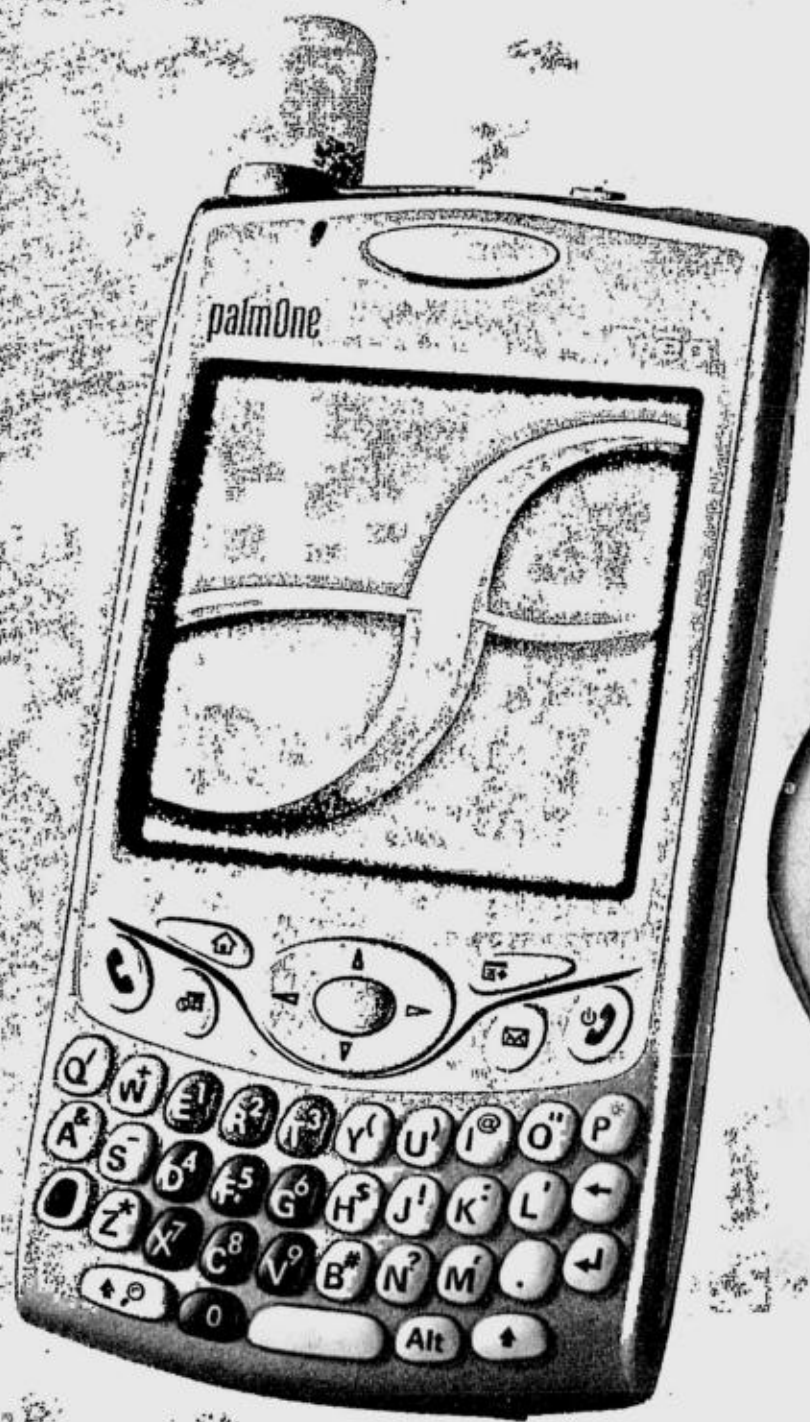
fridae

923-JOEY
It's a groove thing!

For more info, call 849-3440 or log on to www.circuitasia.com.

SMART
Infinity
 Enjoy life's best.

Discover
 peace
 of mind.



Experience how things easily fall into place when you organize with the new Treo 650.

Because your life flourishes beyond the office, that's why SMART Infinity offers you the versatile Treo 650. Equipped with features to help you organize your day, the Treo 650 also comes with:

- Up to 6 hours of talk time and 300 hours on standby.
- Built-in VGA digital camera.
- Bluetooth connectivity.
- Up to 22MB available storage memory.
- Palm OS 5.4.
- Intel PXA270 processor at 312 MHz.
- MP3 player.

Avail of the Treo 650 under SMART Infinity and receive a complimentary Jabra Bluetooth Headset – the only one of its kind with up to 8 hours talk time and up to 240 hours standby time.

For inquiries, call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.



Promo period: February 12 to March 15, 2005.
 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0723, Series of 2005.

- Subscribe to SMART Infinity and enjoy the convenience of:
- A Dedicated Infinity Management Officer to handle all details about your subscription.
 - 24/7 Customer Service via SMART Infinity's exclusive Hotline Number *800.
 - An International Concierge Service simply by dialling 63-SMART (63-76278).

style . urban

pop culture . entertainment

EURO TRIP.
Cindy K. in the
Ibiza maillot

FREE 8 MSA Books

including ♦ Math and English handbooks
♦ guide to Colleges and Universities

for
those who
join the

MSA
COLLEGE ENTRANCE
and SAT Review
for
UP, ATENEO, LA SALLE
UST, San Beda, St. Paul
and other top universities abroad

Your
Education.
Your
Future!

MSA

makes you be what you want to be!

315 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 925-7544 ♦ 929-9145
G/F Prince David Condo, Katipunan Ave., Loyola Hts 435-6062 ♦ 925-4602

SM Fairview

SM Mall Novariches

Quezon City

935-0011

935-0012

Makati

101 Estecon cor. Dela Rosa,

Legaspi Village

815-1307

813-0943

Alabang

G/F South Center Tower,

Madrigal Business Park

850-6550

850-6551

Calinta

Franco St.

Viola Verde

Imelda Avenue

646-8243

Antipolo

24 Irwin Street,

Filinvest Homes East,

Marcos Highway

646-8245

Cebu

Riverside Complex

49-A Alabon Ave.,

(032) 255-2191

255-2193

Can I have some

K?

By Tim Yap

Photos by Xander Angeles

Makeup by Yza Palmero of Shu Uemura

Clothes by Loungerie by Celine Lopez

IT'S NOT just her accent. Cindy Kurlito glides into the VIP room of Embassy and immediately—not once, twice, three times (a lady) does she get stared at. The whole room walllops into a K hole under Cindy's spell. And to think that this is an area packed with über beautiful people.

"Hey :) Anyone know a dog salon? For grooming—not for myself. For my dog." She sends me this text message the following day and I realize that what makes this girl who constantly juggles three languages click is that not only is she drop-dead gorgeous, she can also give you a serious ab workout—without her even trying.

Thus, the MTV VJ (again, whose accent has been parodied by a puppet on MTV operated by co-MTV VJs KC and Sarah) has become the very mold of a new form of femininity. Out goes the boo-hoo busty bombshell, in comes the hoo-ha contemporary chick who gives sisterhood a sassier spin.

"I live my life all by myself—recently bought an apartment in Makati, all by myself again." Cindy is outspoken and not afraid to be alone, independent of any man and all the trappings that come with it.

Her former relationship with screen heartthrob Jericho Rosales is now a closed chapter in her life, and she now focuses on doing artsy stuff, trying to do new things,

finding new loves. "I'm learning how to DJ," says Miss Kurlito, who is visible all over Asia for pitching products from underwear to skin care.

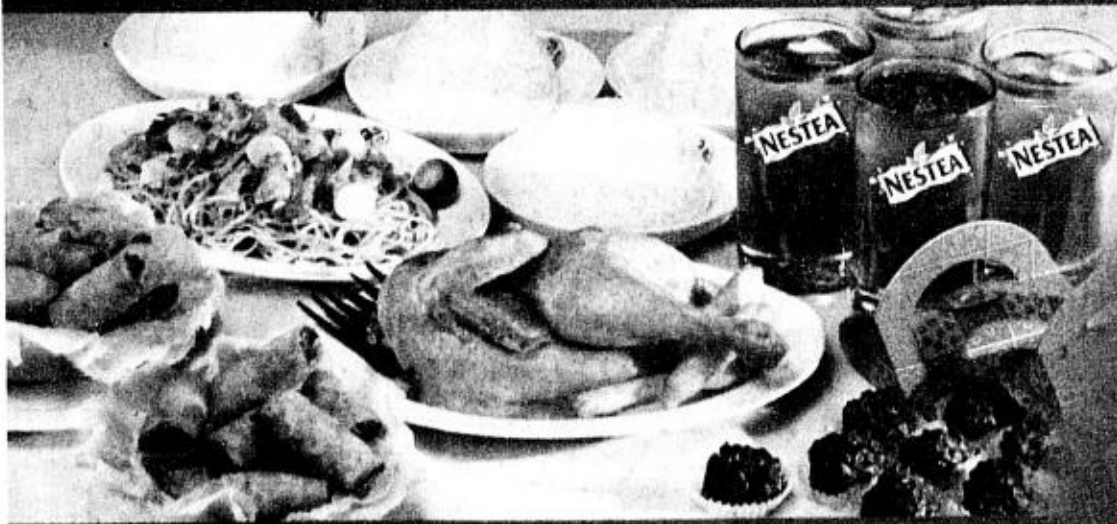
Speaking of intimate wear, how much better to make the season hotter by having Cindy don Loungerie—"It" girl and now designer Celine Lopez's one-of-a-kind hyper-feminine swimwear that's made for both lounging—and, yes, swimming. "K" in this case not only stands for Cindy Kurlito, but also for k-ick ass swimwear.

Just like Cindy, the beauty of it all is in the details. "Each piece can be made to fit your specific body type inspired by details found in lingerie. It's both seductive and unique. I wanted to create something different for women to wear this summer," explained Celine to Cindy while they downed their cheeseburgers and fries like there was no tomorrow. Who said that these two C's were anorexic?

Obviously two women completely comfortable in their own skin, Cindy flirts with Xander Angeles' camera

CAN/F2

Buti pa ang chicken, may ka-partner.



**Max's
Hearty
Chicken
Meal for
four
P 559**

1/2 Fried Chicken,
2 Lumpiang Shanghai,
regular Pancit Canton,
4 rice, 4 NESTEA,
8 pcs. Irish Truffles.



**Max's
Hearty
Chicken
Meal for
two
P 299**

1/2 Fried Chicken (or 4 pcs. Family
Basket Chicken), small Pancit Canton,
2 rice, 2 NESTEA, 4 pcs. Irish Truffles.

May ka-partner ka man o wala, di dapat kang magmukmok ngayong Valentine's, dahil may **Max's Hearty Chicken Meals**. Complete, affordable set meals na may kasamang tamis ng Irish Truffles for dessert. Good para sa isa o dalawang partners, tiyak ma-inlove kayo sa sarap. Kaya kung wala ka pang date, maghanap na ng kaparis para ma-enjoy mo na ang Max's Hearty Meals!

7-9000 DELIVERY

Promo runs from February 10 to March 13, 2005.
Prices are VAT inclusive, applicable municipal tax will be added.
For delivery and take-out, add P11 to get one Pepsi in can.
Above prices are subject to delivery charge.

Not valid for functions, bulk orders
and with any other promo.

Per DTI Permit No. 0537 Series of 2005.

**Max's
RESTAURANT**

Can I have some K?

From page F1

for this Super! shoot while Celine takes a final admiring glance at her design baby. "You can even wear it out on the town—with bottoms, of course," Celine gives Cindy a word of styling advice for her next night out at Embassy.

So ladies (and gentlemen), here is your early summer dose of Vitamin C—Cindy Kurleto wearing Celine Lopez's chick wear, Loungerie.

LOUNGERIE is available at celinerlopez@yahoo.com or mobile 0921-7498820. There is a special sale every weekend for the month of March—Fridays to Sunday, 2:30 to 7:30 p.m. Address is at 7th Floor Regina Building, Aguirre corner Trassiera Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Prices range from P2,000 to P4,000.

The thing about fame is that... it might get overwhelming at times but you'll miss it anyway.
The thing I love most about what I do... is to shock, surprise and make them laugh.
People might be surprised to know that... I open my own door, pay my own meal and I've never accepted any overpriced gifts...
The most important thing I've ever learned is that... If you want something done, you gotta do it yourself.
I wish when I started off I've been told to... bleh!
Aren't you tired of other people messing with your business?
The worst thing that ever happened to me was that... I dropped my passport in a CR bowl... at the airport right before passing immigration, hehe.
And what this taught me was... to wear one of those clever travel purses, so I'll have my hands free.

The secret to happiness is... to worry less... what else? Find contentment... honesty.
My best-ever outfit is... my birthday suit.
My Super! Saturday night consists of... Steak production parties, Embassy Superclub and anything else that's hot, like open mic poetry sessions.
The soundtrack to my life would include... Common's track called "Invocation"
If I were invisible for a day, I would... hmm... sneak into the Oscar Awards after-party VIP section...
The thing that makes me most angry is... boastful attitude, ass-kissin' mentality.
If I were the most powerful person on earth... I'd come up with an international holiday: A "Clean Up the World" day. Imagine everyone on earth picking up one little piece of garbage on the street, the world would instantly be a degree cleaner.

The best thing about family is that... you don't have to stand alone in this world. Starting your own family must be like creating your own hemisphere.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say... where are my bags and clothes, let me have them! And where is her music? And the old-school sneakers?
If money was no object... I'd invite you all, nonstop to a crazy trip around the world.
I'd make every medical support free for everyone.
When I retire, I would like... to chill out in a green garden, at a beach house with a nice terrace. Sail the big ocean, write a book.
The world would be a much better place if... we genuinely care more.
My hero is... my mother.
The thing that makes my life worth living are... five senses. Incredible.
My greatest hope for the future is... for the world to have peace, green grass and fresh air.
The worst thing somebody said about me was that I mess with your head. Honestly? Care factor zero.
My favorite moments are when... dear friends or family get teary-eyed because of happy situations corny no?
My most embarrassing moment was when... I had to present the Immigration clerk a soaked passport...
I'm saving up for... a worryless life.
My biggest indulgence is... to travel.
My current state of mind is... purple.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be... What's a biopic?
My five favorite words are... chocolate mousse, beach, Vienna, shopping, spa.

Crack the case and be rewarded!

CRIME GAME: DARE TO PLAY WITH PEOPLE'S LIVES

INQUEST

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
ADVENTURE

The first SMS-based multimedia mystery game in the country!

Probe into our pages as we unfold the most exciting game of intrigue, suspicion and deceit.
Answer the questions for a chance to win cool prizes in the preliminary draws.
PLUS, get a chance to be one of the 5 to win up to **₱100,000 cash** in guessing who the killer is!

GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:

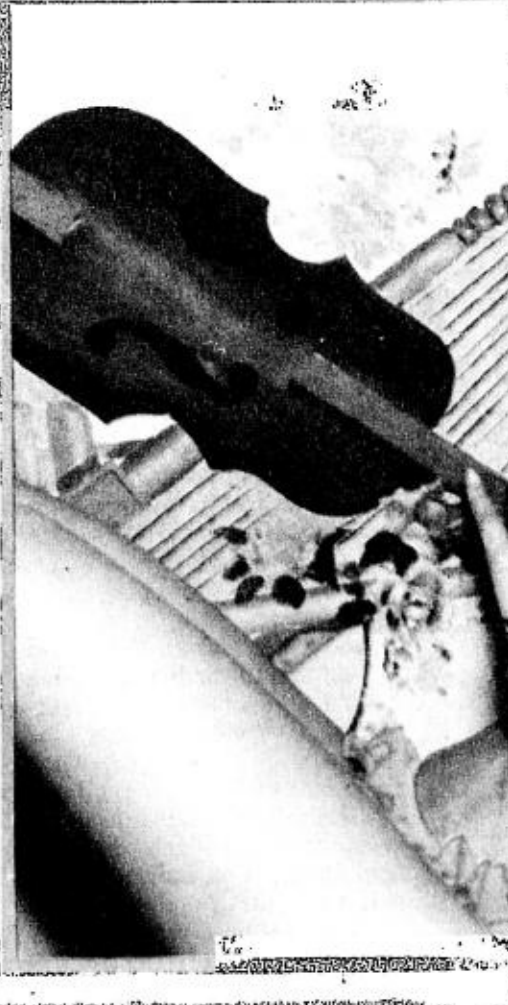
- To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQUEST Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: INQ Reg <full name> <complete address> <age> <gender>
Ex: INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz 1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig 34 M
- Send to 8880 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Sun Cellular subscribers or 800 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
- Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically linked to your name.

The Game:

- Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQUEST Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
- To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQUEST website or INQTV (every Thursday, 8 to 9pm at ABS-CB). To answer, text in this format: INQ Q <question #> <answer> and so on. Ex: INQ Q 1 A
- Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draw.
- For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is ₱8.00 for Globe/Touch Mobile/Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers and ₱8.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
- There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (5 winners). There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding draws. Final draw winner can only win once.
- The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a cool prize.

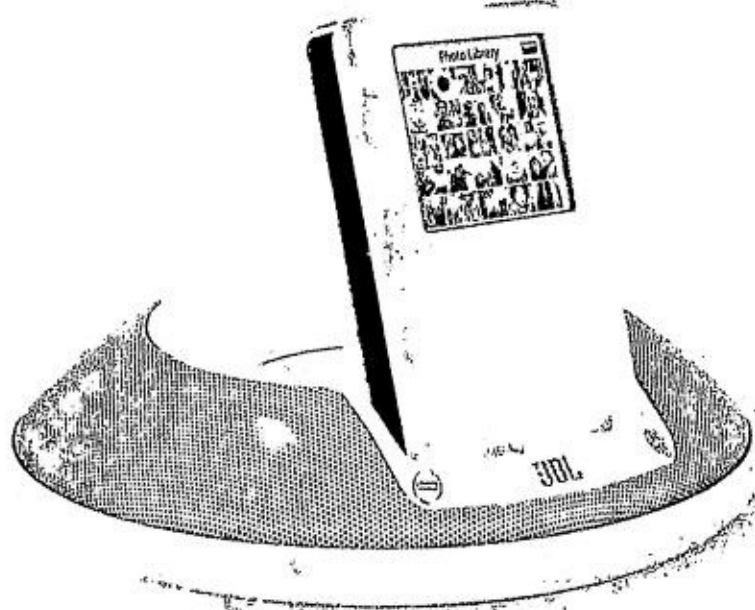
- The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of ₱80,000.00 each. An additional cash prize ₱20,000.00 will be given to those with correct answer after the draw.
- Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
- Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at: Chino Rocas Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
- Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
- The following must be presented by the Grand draw winners for verification:
 - Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
 - In case valid ID do not indicate birth-date/age, present a birth certificate
 - Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
 - PDI masthead (including date) taken from issue where question was published
- Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
- All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
- The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
- All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQUEST, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
- Promo period is from March 8 to May 7, 2006.

Per DTI-ICH Permit No. 1153, Series of 2006



iPod + JBL OnStage

Your New Personal Stereo!



Buy a JBL OnStage Speaker for only Php 10,900.
Purchase it with an iPod unit and get an iPod sock for FREE!



JBL OnStage Speaker



+ Any iPod unit*



= FREE iPod Sock
Protect your iPod

Authorized Distributor



Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 0442 Series of 2005

*iPod clickwheel or iPod mini only.
Promo period from February 18 to March 31, 2005.

Participating Dealers:

Astropius • Avant • Comlink • Electroworld • Mobile 1 • palmOne Pod Central • Villman

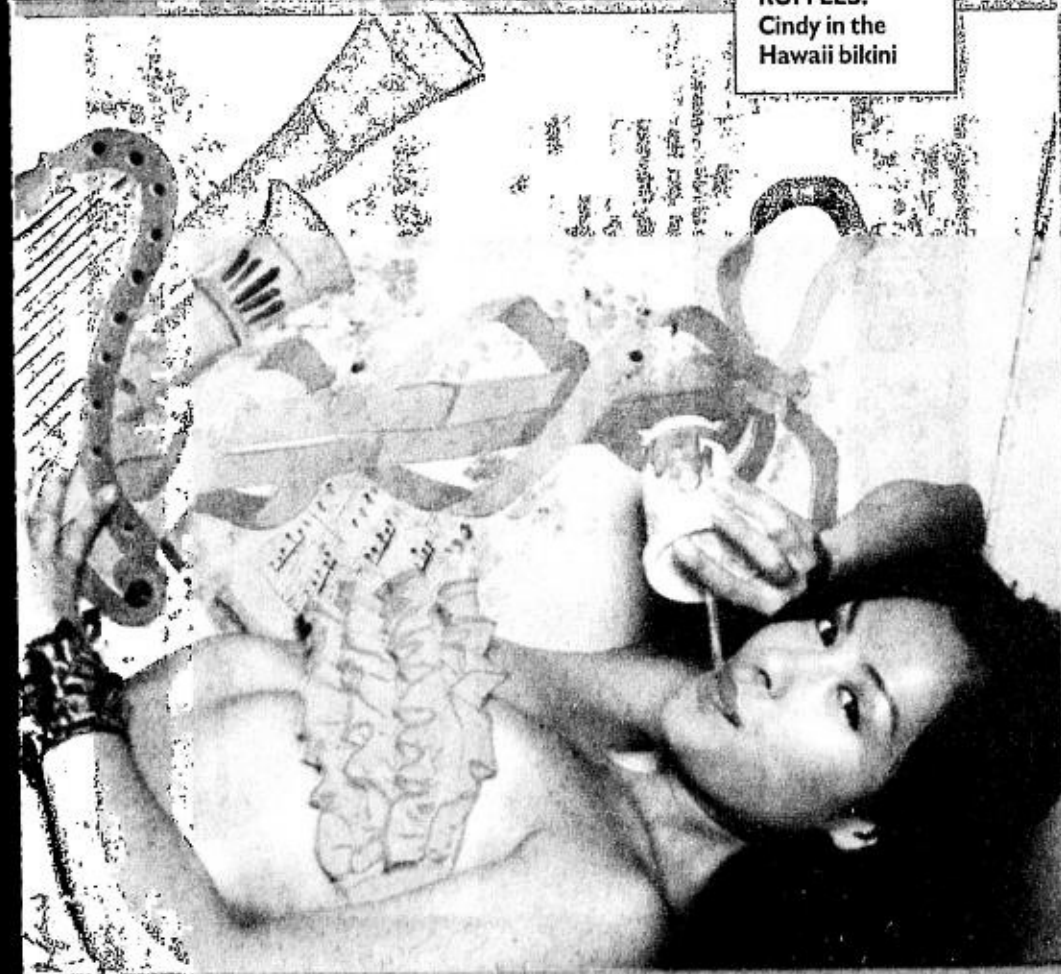


LET'S CRUISE,
BABY. Loungerie's
St. Bart's in
turquoise



NICE CUP. Miss
K in a Maldives
bikini in silver

LOW-CALORIE
RUFFLES.
Cindy in the
Hawaii bikini



There's more to pack between you

- Up to 25,000 photos¹
- Up to 42 days of continuous voice recording²
- Office documents
- Games
- Phone and email contacts
- Calendar appointments

and your music.

Now, you can share snapshots with your friends and relatives without lugging bulky laptops or photo albums around. Poring through that organizer for your meetings won't be necessary either. With up to 60 GB of room for as many as 25,000 photos, ...or up to 42 days of continuous voice recording, the iPod can keep both your work and life mobile, within your pocket. All without putting a pause on your music.

¹Photos has to be transferred via a computer using iTunes. Photo capacity is based in iPod-viewable photos transferred from iTunes.
For more information about the iPod photo's full capabilities, please visit www.apple.com/ipodphoto

²Requires the use of third party accessories.



Purchase Apple Care Protection Plan for your iPod and extend your hardware coverage (including battery) plus technical support for up to 2 full years.

Suggested Retail Price:

iPod Photo 40GB Php 31,400 / 60GB Php 38,500
AppleCare Protection Plan Php 3,500

Authorized Dealers:

Metro Manila: ABC Computer Company • Acenot Computer • Ambassador • Anson's • Astropius • Automatic Center • Avant • AV Surfer • Comlink • Dataview • Electronics Boutique • Electroworld • LMK Commercial • Microstation • Mobile 1 • NT Computer Mart • palmOne PodCentral • Quality Cellular • Senco Lpk Technologies • Silicon Valley • The Outlet People • True Value • Villman • Ynzal Mktg. • 5th Ave Gebu: AV Surfer • Electroworld • NG Khal • Sound House • Thinking Tools
Davao: Chimes • Columbia Computer (Gensan) • Electroworld (SM) • RJ Homes (Victoria Plaza) • Quality Appliance Plaza

Authorized Distributor

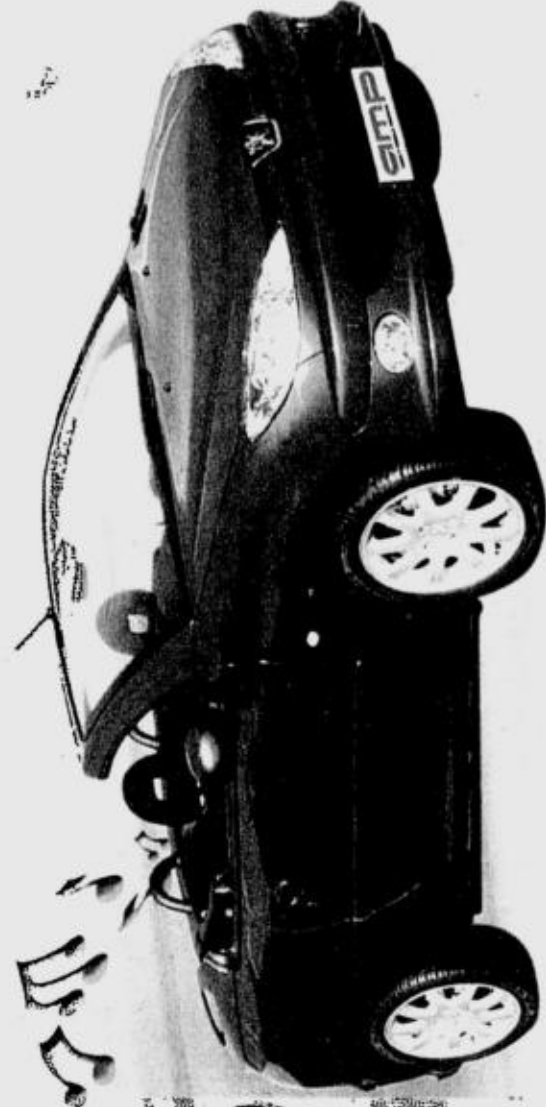


GET

ADDICT MOBILE PREPAID

FAST FORWARD

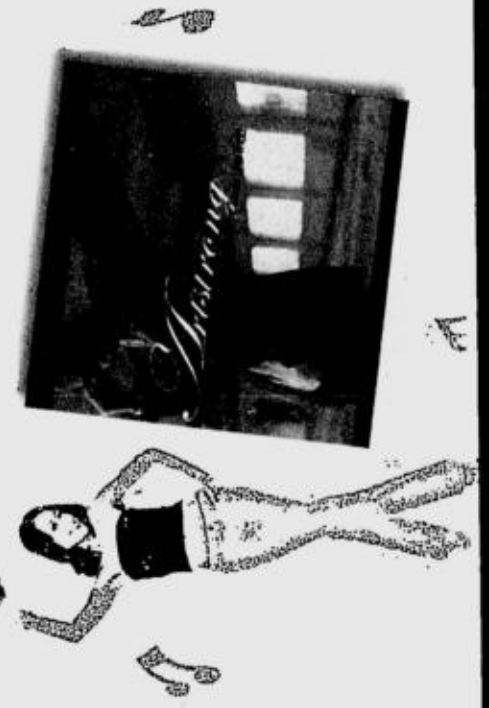
PROMO



Get a chance to win a **Peugeot 206** sports coupe or one of 5 iPod Shuffles weekly, when you subscribe to AMP's Music Genre RingTones. To join, simply subscribe to your preferred Music Tone Genre, and get a **FREE** tone!

Every weekly monotone or polytone you receive earns you an additional raffle entry. The longer you stay hooked on your subscription, the more raffle entries you get!

Get more Warner Music CD's at your nearest Astroplus or Tower Records outlet now.



POP RingTones

For Monotones: Text WOW POP to 209
For Polytones: Text WOW POPPOLY to 209

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A6	Kiss Me	Sequence None The Richer
A7	Bright Lights	Billy Crawford
A8	Rich Grl	Gwen Stefani
A9	What U Waiting For	Gwen Stefani
A10	Over	Lindsay Lohan

Text TONE or POLY <keyword> to 209 P15 per download

RNB RingTones

For Monotones: Text WOW RNB to 209
For Polytones: Text WOW RNBPOLY to 209

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A11	Talk About Our Love	Brandy
A12	Let Me Love You	Mario
A13	Na Na Na	Nelly
A14	Only You	Ashanti
A15	Caught Up	Usher
A16	Love My Breath	Destiny's Child
A17	Wonderful	Jay Rule

Text TONE or POLY <keyword> to 209 P15 per download

Rock RingTones

For Monotones: Text WOW ROCK to 209
For Polytones: Text WOW ROCKPOLY to 209

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A1	Boulevard of Broken Dreams	Green Day
A2	Only One	Yellowcard
A3	Me Against the World	Simple Plan
A4	This Is Your Life	Switchfoot
A5	American Idiot	Green Day

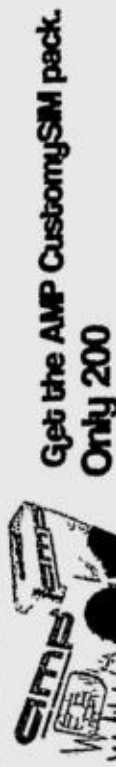
Text TONE or POLY <keyword> to 209 P15 per download

OPM RingTones

For Monotones: Text WOW OPM to 209
For Polytones: Text WOW OPMPOLY to 209

KEYWORD	TITLE	ARTIST
A19	These Days	Bamboo
A20	Nahuhukog	Sandwich
A21	Tulsi Ng Daid	The Dears
A22	Bardo Aga Ba	The Mongols
A23	Questions	Arbstrong

Text TONE or POLY <keyword> to 209 P15 per download



POWERED BY **SMART**

ASTROPLUS

M music one

TOWER

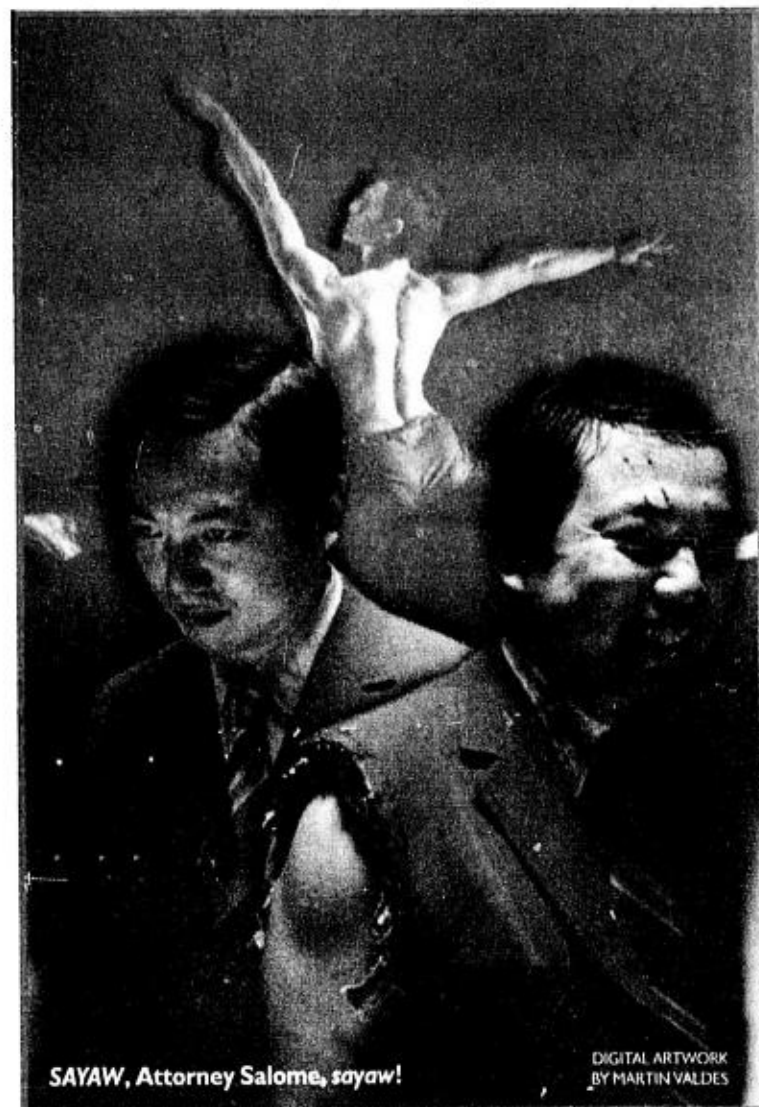
WARNER MUSIC PHILIPPINES

For more details, Text WOW to 209.

Now you're in.

Promo runs from Feb. 20 to June 30, 2005.
Per DTH-MCR Perms No. 0411 Series of 2005.

addict



SAYAW, Attorney Salome, sayaw!

DIGITAL ARTWORK
BY MARTIN VALDES

Dear Man About Town,
My parents have always wanted me to become a lawyer. My grandfather was a partner in a small law firm, and my father followed in his footsteps and took over the firm. It seemed the logical step to inherit this lifestyle, and so I entered the University with the hopes of finishing with an appropriate degree in Law. I am now halfway done with my studies (and doing well).

The problem is, I don't think I want to be a lawyer anymore. I have nothing against the legal profession, but there are other things I want to do with my life. My father threatened to cut off my financial support if I ever gave up Law. Even if he is bluffing, I know that this will break his heart. I also understand that my family owes its standard of living to the benefits that have come from a lucrative legal profession and my father's sacrifices, so I feel bound to follow his wishes—but at the expense of my happiness? What should I do?

SEVERAL years ago, a prominent athletic footwear brand (I think it was Puma) embarked on a bemusing marketing campaign. In their print ads, they lampooned several stars from

different athletic galaxies as they MIGHT have been had they chosen alternate lifestyles. One of my favorites was of Dennis Bergkamp, a legend of football (soccer) who was dubbed the Dutch Master

for his exquisite technical skill, posed in a ridiculously quaint

traditional costume complete with lime tights and clogs, and carrying a pail of churned milk. The caption deadpanned: "Dennis Bergkamp, Cheese Maker."

Which is not to say he wouldn't have prospered as an exceptionally talented Cheese Maker if he had so desired. In an alternate universe, he might have been the demigod of dairy, the King Kong of Kraft, the Cheeses Christ. But it would be difficult, almost painful, to imagine this reality bereft of his mesmerizing talent on a football field. Imagine Donald Trump as a librarian. Or Kris Aquino as an actress. It could have happened. But these people made their choices long ago, and we, the public, suffer the rewards and consequences of their actions.

The problem with choice is that you have to make one. We're not discussing those frivolous dilemmas we infest ourselves with in pestiferous amounts, granting them a mod-

CAREER/G4

Super Career View Mirror

pop culture • entertainment • recreation

Do you find yourself cross-eyed at the career crossroads?

UPCAT REVIEW

ATENEO • DE LA SALLE • UST & OTHER COLLEGES

- ✓ UP and ATENEO LECTURERS
- ✓ MANAGEABLE CLASS SIZE
- ✓ ON LINE ANALYSIS OF EXAMS

Reviews start on April 4. Call now & get a discount!!

DILIMAN ACCESS ALSO OFFERS:
Science, English, Math, Tutorials
7475206 / 09209601729

"we bring high standard educational guidance close to you"

Venues:
Katipunan Ave., Quezon City*
Cityland Pioneer, Mandaluyong*
* P 4,500 (60 HRS)

Doña Manuela, Las Piñas City
Molino and Imus, Cavite
BF Homes, Parañaque
San Pedro, Laguna
Lipa City, Batangas
Angeles City, Pampanga

MEGA SALE!

Up to 70% Off
on Selected Fabrics and Wallpapers

All Must Go!!!

Sale starts Monday, March 7 to April 7, 2005

No installation, deliveries, reservations, measurements, bring your own estimates.

For DTH-RCP Permit No. A3-170, Series of 2005
CWC Industries, Inc. 358 G. Aranela Ave., Quezon City • Tel. No.: 7136430 • Fax No.: 7140788

entertainment

The Megastrip presents

BACK to the 80's

JIMMY BONDOL

PASSAGE

March 5 - Saturday, April 9, 2005

The Megastrip, SM Megamall

WAVE 89.1

NEW!

Gardenia

Focaccia Bread

Have a bite of Italy!

In the mood for something Italian? Try the new Gardenia Focaccia Bread!

It has the authentic flavor that has made focaccia an all-time favorite in Italy. With its flavorful aroma of rosemary, basil, oregano, and paprika together with the richness of olive oil, every bite can only get more delicious.

So, whenever you crave for something Italian, have a Gardenia Focaccia Bread! It's simply squisito!

Treat yourself to Gardenia Focaccia Bread. Enriched with olive oil, paprika, rosemary, basil and oregano.

Focaccia Bread

Savor it like the Italians do!

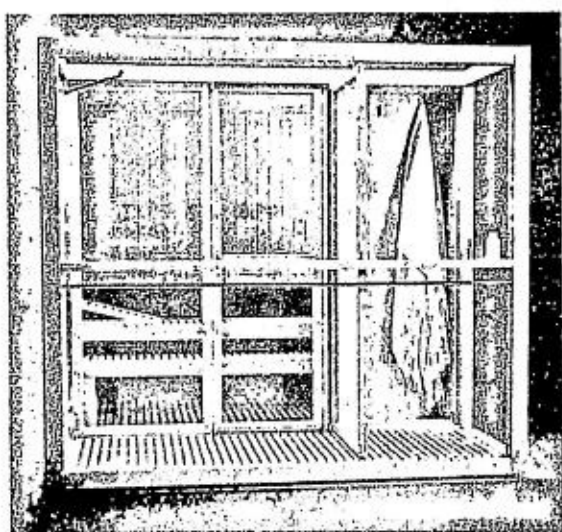
- Gardenia Focaccia Bread tastes delightful on its own. Simply toast and savor its rich authentic flavors.
- Dip a piece of focaccia in a mixture of balsamic vinegar and olive oil to enhance your eating pleasure.
- For a refreshing change, serve with your favorite soup or pasta dish.
- Use it as a pizza base to make your pizza creations genuinely Italian.

with pure olive oil & herbs

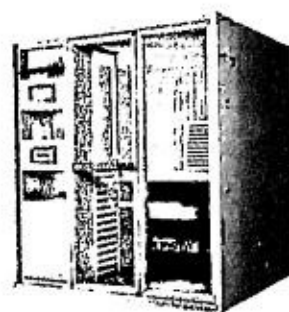
Finnish Saunas and Steam Sauna Systems
Ideal for homes, gyms, hotels and beauty farms

EFFEGIBI

Logica series



wellness of life



Master Line



Vihta F-120

DEXTERTON
Dexterton Corporation

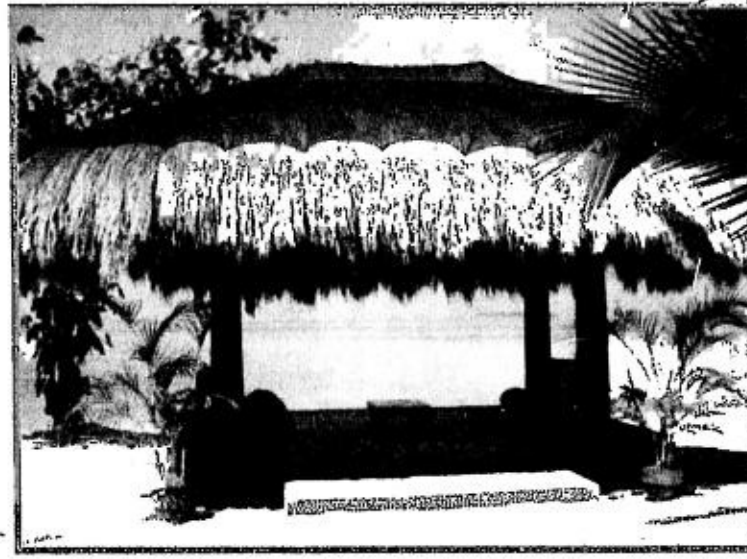
Address
157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City
Tel: 382-1111, 361-8008 Fax No: 382-0524
email: info@dexterton.com
website: www.dexterton.com



TROPICAL hut



SUMMER palace



CABANA republic

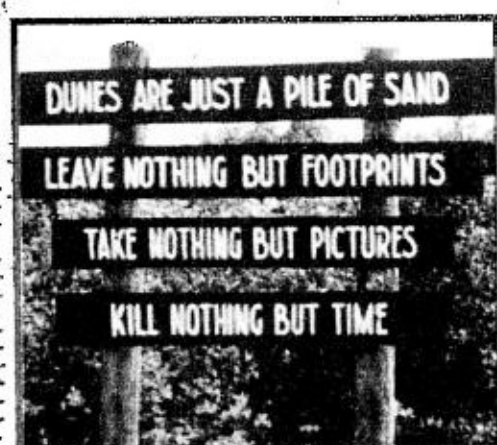
GIVEN the choice, I would've played some old school Isley Brothers to set the mood. Jack Johnson's acoustic warblings would've been perfect, too. Better still, had I followed my instincts, I surely would've soundtracked that moment with chic-but-generic Hed Kandi house music (Bonnie Bailey's "Ever After"). However, I realized context was everything. Since I was being welcomed to Dos Palmas Arreceffi Resort Palawan, the exotic, "Jumanji"-like cadence of native drums and brass gongs hit the spot quite nicely. Welcome to the tropics, beeyatch!

Yanked out of my daily reality, I found myself gawking—much like a wide-eyed nutcase—at the island and its trademark swaying palms. I nearly sobbed. (I really have a thing for swaying palms. They remind me of spring break in Isla Margarita, Venezuela, which reminds me of the El Channel's "Wild On!," which reminds me of Brooke Burke, which reminds me of... And I just digressed.) And just like a 7-year-old in dire need of Ritalin, I wanted so badly to cannonball into the clear sapphire water below my bay cottage and feed the fish, some I think were as big as bicycles.

But when I was told that manta rays hid themselves just beneath the cocaine-grade sand, the thought of being stung by one of those evil creatures (not to mention the idea of someone having to pee on my leg to ease the skull-pounding pain—I saw that in a "Friends" episode) made me forget that idea rather instantly. Besides, since I was pale like death, the resort's guest services officer said that Nemo and co. might think I was a giant slice of white bread and eat me alive. Again, not cool. So instead, I made a run for my suite, turned the AC up to "Siberia" (so to speak) and parked myself in front of the TV. Surprise, surprise! My room didn't have one. Neither did any of the other bay and garden cottages. According to resident manager Lyba Godio, the absence of idiot boxes was intentional so that guests would be compelled to test-drive the leisure activities on offer, some of which required some SPF 70. Yay!

Salute the sun... or not

The next day, with Super!'s diehard beach connoisseur Tals Diaz by my side, I was in for a sporty escape. Had I woken up before noon, that



Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz



ME, LIKE, by the beach



UHM, LIKE, deep thoughts

Ready, set, relax!

My mantra for 2005, those three words summed up my sun-soaked weekend at Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Palawan

LORD, mainit!

Smile High Club

HERE'S something that should boost your feel-good quotient for the day.

The latest issue of Time Asia served up some mental Prozac on that eternal human quest—and it's not the perfect body, a six-figure salary or a year-round, three-day weekend. It was about man's pursuit of Happiness.

And hello sunshine, the Philippines was mentioned as one of the happiest countries in the world, as revealed by several studies and surveys on national happiness levels. In spite of being light years behind in terms of economic development as compared to our much wealthier Asian neighbors like Japan, Korea, Singapore and Mainland China, we were extolled as a much cheerier bunch in this corner of the Pacific. Hooray! Internationally, the Philippines scored high as well in the happy meter. In the global village, we're next-door neighbors to the three considered as the most joyful locales: Colombia, Puerto Rico and Spain. And we're in same tier as Brazil, Uruguay, Italy and Argentina.

This may come as a bit of a shocker, considering that our country is constantly assaulted with problems of poverty, pollution, insanity-inducing traffic, corruption and Kris Aquino billboards on main thoroughfares. The Latin Americans are likewise mired in the same economic muck, and yet they are revealed by study after study to be among the happiest people in the world. You'd think that our so-

cioeconomic woes would have led us to slash our wrists *en masse* long ago, yet why is it that we still manage to find something to smile about? In fact, at the close of 2004, a particularly blech-onomic year, eight out of ten surveyed Filipinos revealed to a local research firm that "they felt optimistic about 2005," as reported by Time Asia writer Alan Robles. Hmm... surely there must be something in the *sisig* and San Miguel beer!

Ain't no sunshine

On the other end of the spectrum, our East Asian neighbors, namely the Japanese, Chinese and South Koreans, were revealed to be quite a depressed lot. Apparently, there ain't much sunshine in the land of the rising sun: the Japanese, who "average more than one car per household, can afford hi-tech personal electronics and blow about \$1,000 a year each on recreational travel" are quite a somber bunch, in spite of their two-decade economic boom from 1960 to 1980.

So why does it seem that Iberian-influenced cultures produce happier people? Must be something about the bananas in the republic. For while the capitalist trend strives for a standard of living, Latin passion aspires for a quality of life.

Money for nothing?

So there really is more than a smidgen of truth to the clichés that money can't buy hap-

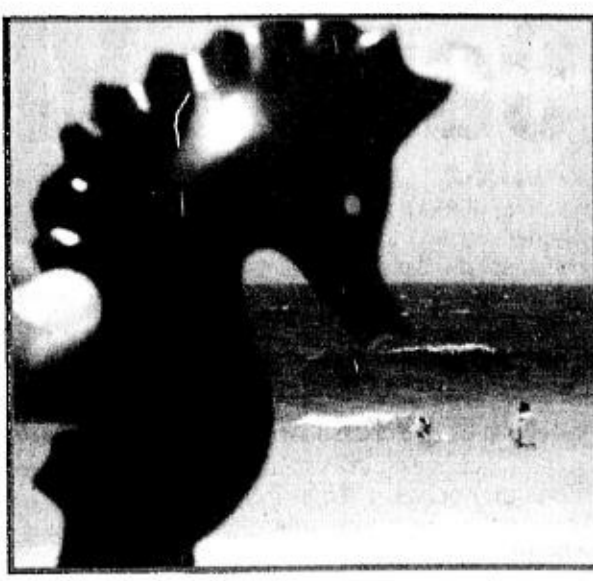
OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

piness, and that the best things in life (Okay, maybe not exactly free, but the ed DVDs are certainly dirt-cheap.) over the past two decades has revealed there is no significant relationship between income and happiness. True, money guarantee lifelong bliss, but if a mill fell into my lap at this very moment, be doing cartwheels all the way to the bank. It's the obsession with money to believe will buy you a one-way ticket to Gloomsville. Sociologists call it "anxiety," when one constantly compares one's possessions with others, and never be satisfied, for there will always be someone out there with a better slicker car, or a thicker wallet. Believe that man's insatiable desire is cause of suffering. Personally, my for happiness is really quite simple: purchase it at the drugstore. Kidding. It's a great human tragedy when want takes over simple passions; w-



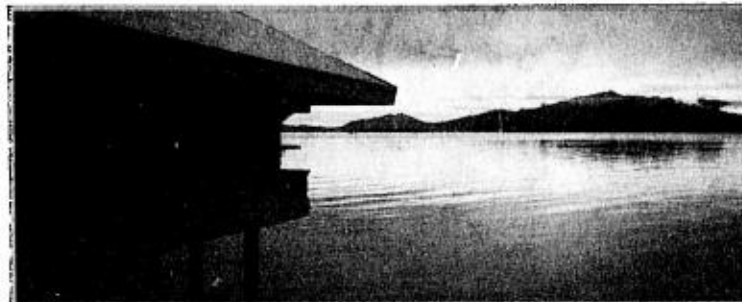
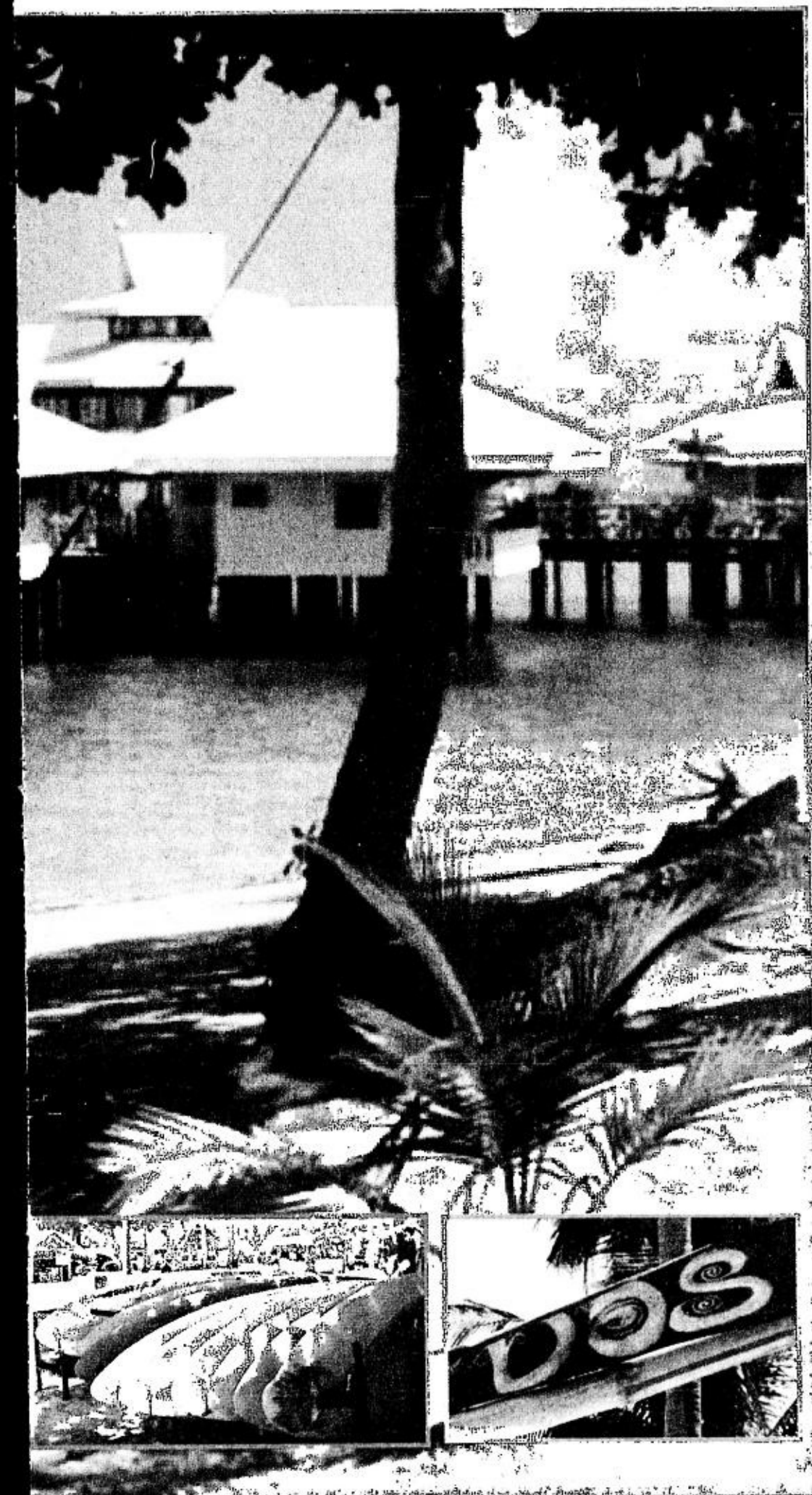
OL with a view



THE GIANT seahorse attacks the unsuspecting Koreans.



SCHWING!



DOS PALMAS before sunset. Awww...



SEE...



SHELLS

is. I found myself hung over like a Kansas frat boy from the previous night's welcome party and alcohol-related debauchery so I missed the 9:30 a.m. introductory dive. I made up for it, though, by showing up in time for lunch/brunch. Unlike other resorts, all meals for guests at Dos Palmas are part of the accommodation costs and that day, our little group was ferried away to a private island 15 minutes away. Over a hearty buffet of grilled seafood and fresh seaweed salad and with only a thatched roof to protect us from the noon-time sun, I surrendered myself to the magic of the surrounding Honda Bay, not to mention the Korean tourists who came along with us. (With their choice of stunning beach wear—heels on fat ankles, long sleeve shirts, khakis, towels used like pashminas—and their sheer number, the Koreans provided some form of entertainment. We think it's a cross between the BBC's "What Not To Wear" and GMA 7's "Master Showman Presents.") It was a very, very interesting lunch indeed.

Despite the fact that I had every right to roam freely and do absolutely nothing, I decided to sign up for an island-hopping trip that same afternoon. (Guests can also go wind surfing, fishing, kayaking and snorkeling.) When lunch wrapped up, we boarded a boat and washed up on three distinct islands out of the 16 that make up the entire Honda Bay: Snake, Starfish and Pandan Islands.

Each has its own charm, perfect for aspiring bohemians or hipsters in repose. Snake Island is a popular snorkeling pit stop for visitors from the nearby resorts and it got its name from its sperm-shaped topography. Word has it, though, that the government intends to turn

the island and its mangroves into one big-ass deluxe casino. Boo to that.

Moving on, Starfish Island is home to a few rundown cottages which hermit-like honeymooners can arrange to lease. Given there is nothing much left to do on this tiny, tiny island, you'd better bring a ton of reading material and lots of beer or its death by boredom for you.

Last, Pandan Island is the most charming of the three and has the finest sand. Tals and I dreamed of buying it but heard it wasn't for sale. (Sob.) Jowel, our trusty guide, said that it's mostly European backpackers who wind up bunking on this island because they fall madly in love with the huts, the isolation and the easygoing pace of everything. (If John Steinbeck marooned himself here, "The Grapes of Wrath" would've had a happier ending.) Together, those three islands defined "Wow!" for me and made my sunburn worthwhile.

Hot just like an oven

At this point, it was clear that I had already developed a case of vacation obsession. Next thing I knew I was at the resort spa, angling for a requisite massage. But before I became Kobe beef with a deep tissue rubdown, I had to become a roast chicken first in the sauna. I know. I really felt like a DOM doing it, but heck, it was (kinda) fun watching your life flash before your eyes while dehydrating yourself in a 42°C cedar coffin on purpose. Anyway, that made the massage even sweeter. I stepped out of the spa all refreshed and ready once again to do little more than open the door for room service. Ha.

In an age of rampant homogenization, where tourism means bigger and blander hotels, Dos Palmas has bucked the trend by making huge efforts to ensure personalized service. Apart from that, unlike beaches that explode with crass commercialism and a total disregard for nature, Dos Palmas zeroes in on preserving the environment in and around its 20-hectare land area. Palawan, after all, is the last frontier of the Philippines because of its rich marine life that includes rare and endangered species.

By the time I had to check out, violins started playing in my head. Really, it sucked that I had to leave. (Dos Palmas, you spoiled me!) My mind suddenly got used to the island tempo and I started soaking up everything one found seashell, one lungful of fresh air, one banana rum shake at a time. Saluting the sun has never been a big part of my personal lexicon but this time, I gave in. (My shoulders are now orange and I feel like an Oompa Loompa but it was all worth it.) Ready, set, relax? Yeah, you bet.

Special thanks to Lybanor Godio, Jowel Abrio and Vikkie Castro.

The Dos Palmas Manila Office is located at Unit 1005 Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Tel. (632) 637 4226, 637 4236; Fax (632) 637 4230

Their Palawan Office is located at 89 Lacao St., Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Tel. (6348) 434 3118; Fax (63 48) 434 3119

Email: info@dospalmas.com.ph
Website: www.dospalmas.com.ph

Asian Spirit now flies daily to Puerto Princesa. For more details log onto www.asianspirit.com.

becomes measured in terms of a fixed rate instead of moments to be lived fully. Don't get me wrong, there is dignity in hard work, yet not to the point that becomes your life's end-all and be-all. I've seen it happen to a few friends, still so young and yet so fixated on getting rich, getting promoted, getting a new car and the latest gizmo that for some reason ups your station in the social food chain. These material preoccupations have somehow impaired their eyesight from perceiving the more essential things in life that don't come with a price tag. Like sunlight, for one.

I have a good friend whom I now vaguely remember seeing during the daytime, for work has taken over her soul completely. She even once confessed over an e-mail that money just makes her happy. Yikes. We used to spend Saturday afternoons with the simple joys of languidly sipping coffee in between conversations about books, world politics, spirituality and most importantly, good-looking boys. Now I am perpetually in competition with her PC. She once told me that she's saving up on some fund that would guarantee her to be blindingly wealthy at the age of 45. Thus, she's sacrificed even the momentary, mindless joys of just going out to party on a Saturday night, or even just spontaneously combusting our asses to the beach over the weekend. When you're deeply involved in affairs of too much work for the love of money, what happens to the greater

love affair with life itself?

Viva Latina

I can't help but compare some of my workaholic mates with some of the cheeriest folks I've met during my recent adventures backpacking through Latin America. In one particularly bohemian coastal stop along the Pacific, I ended up befriending a Mexican family who owned a rundown little cantina by the beach. They didn't have much, and yet they stood out as souls effused with the richness of life. It was the simplest of things they savored for the moment—their music, their dancing, their little space on the beach facing a glowing sunset, their faith, and the laughter shared among family and friends. I thought I was among the happiest people alive.

Happi-nyoy

While I'd shudder to even attempt to speak on behalf of all Filipinos, I'd at least offer that many would be able to relate to that life perspective. A strong sense of community, solid friendships, and a degree of freedom to engage in personal passions were in fact hailed as the chief harbingers of happiness.

It's been said many times that the Pinoy's sense of humor is our secret to survival and resilience in the face of endless misfortune. As one of the happiest people on the planet, we Pinoy seem to favor passion over possession. How's that for a happy thought?

GIFT FOUNDATION WITH THE SUPPORT OF CIRCUIT ASIA PRESENTS

HANDS ON-THE-SPOT POSTER MAKING CONTEST

YOUTH AGAINST AIDS 2005

April 28 - May 1, 2005
Clamshell 2, Intramuros, Manila

We are calling all College students to join Gift Foundation's ON-THE-SPOT POSTER MAKING CONTEST

Registration forms must be submitted not later than **March 15, 2005.**

Mechanics:

- 1) Group of 2 members to create their own original design patterned to the theme
- 2) All entries must be of original artwork

APRIL 24, 2005

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Elimination Round

(Shangri-La Mall)

APRIL 29 & 30, 2005

Final Round of Competition

MAY 01, 2005

Awarding & Auction

Prizes:

P15,000.00 1st Prize Winner P10,000.00 2nd Prize Winner P 5,000.00 3rd Prize Winner

REGISTRATION FORMS can be claimed at the following offices:

NU 107 Office
RM. 202 STRATA 200 Bldg., Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City
TEL. NO. 6348513-14

GIFT FOUNDATION Office
27th floor, Enterprise bldg., Tower 2, Paseo de Roxas cor Ayala Avenue Makati city.
Phone: 849-3436 Fax: 849-3818 or download Registration Form at www.giftfoundation.info

and at your STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE

We welcome VOLUNTEERS for this event.

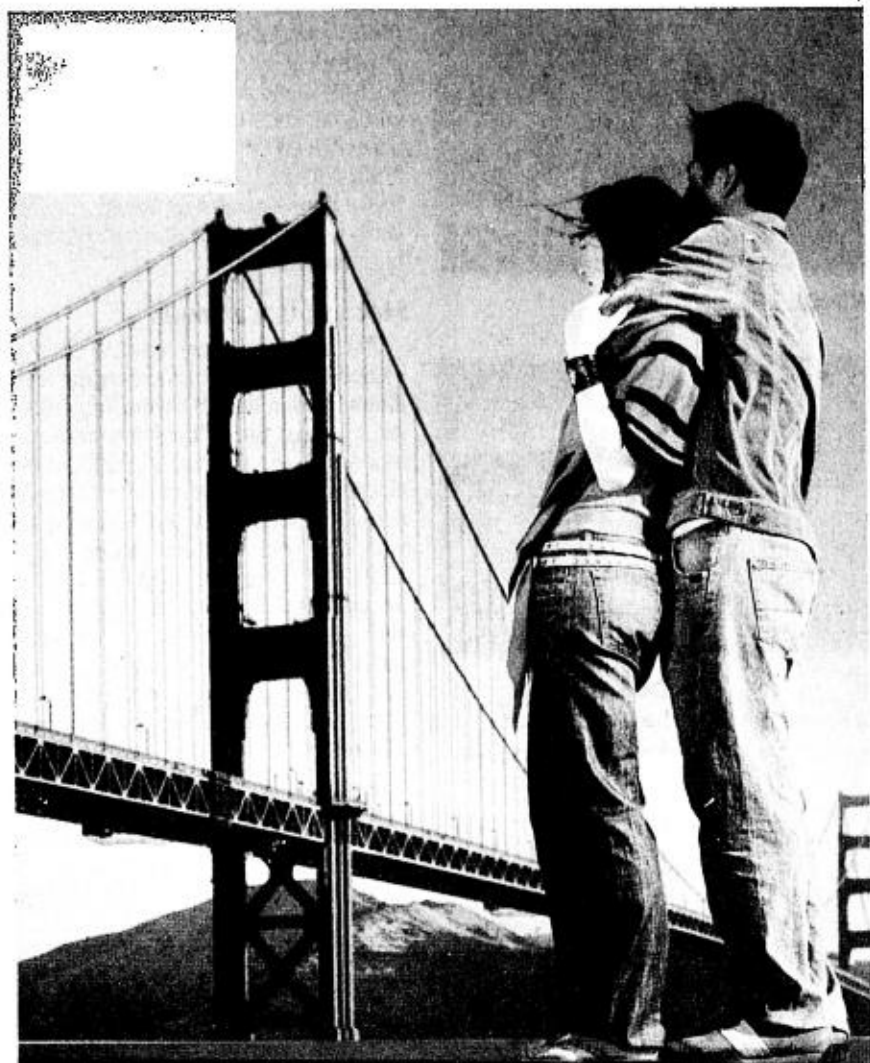
REGISTRATION IS FREE!!!

For more information and details, please call THE GIFT FOUNDATION Office at 849 34 36 and look for Ms. Tiny Garces-Florentino or visit our website at <http://www.giftfoundation.info>

Circuit Asia
www.circuitasia.com

for the benefit of
GIFT FOUNDATION
www.giftfoundation.info





San Francisco
Starting USD 1,013



Bangkok
Starting USD 241



Singapore
Starting USD 309



Shanghai
Starting USD 243



Los Angeles
Starting USD 932



Las Vegas
Starting USD 920

WISH GRANTED. Get discounted airfare and free accommodation for an extra night when you book your trip with your Visa Card.

For more information, call PAL Reservations at 855 7777, visit www.philippinelines.com or any PAL Ticketing Office. See text cards for more details. Promo period is from January 20 to March 8, 2005. Per D11-NCR Permit No. 0473, Series of 2005. Rates apply to twin-sharing and extra-bed arrangements only. Valid for departure dates within February 1 to March 15, 2005.



G4



SATURDAY,
MARCH 5, 2005

Career View Mirror

From page G1

icum of illusory importance in half-hearted attempts to infuse some excitement into our daily lives. Onions or capers? Wow! Boxers or jockeys? Tough one! "The Buzz" or "S-Files"? That isn't even a real choice, just different rooms in the same cheap motel in Hell.

See you at the crossroads

Real choices exist in trilateral dimensions: they possess a sense of urgency, their consequential patterns are generally obscured, and they affect lives.

So you're standing on a career crossroad even before you've graduated. The lawns of a legal profession seem less than verdant now, and it haunts you to imagine that the grass may be greener in a Law-less frontier. Unfortunately, you don't have the luxury of time, being sandwiched at the midpoint of a competitive and, I imagine, expensive education. You've got to make a decision soon, before more dinero and dignity is consumed, before it's too late to back out—because if you do wait, you may feel obliged to stick it out, simply because you've gone this far.

The truth of the matter is, the emphasis on urgency should not lie on this premise. It is imperative that you consider a course of action as soon as possible NOT because the cement of your future is about to permanently set, but because it becomes a bitch and a half to change the direction of your road once it does dry. As Led Zeppelin once sang, you can ALWAYS change the road you're on. I know people who have made career changes well into their fifties. Doctors who have forsaken medicine for photography, bankers who quit finance for the culinary arts, and accountants who closed their books and foraged into the excitement of... real estate. Unless your current job title is Volunteer Coordinator for Religious Zealots With Dynamite, there will most likely be opportunities down the road to take an exit.

But it does become more difficult the

longer you procrastinate. For one thing, there exists the danger of complacency. The longer an organism is exposed to a certain environment, the easier it is for it to accept its lot in life as a natural state. This is true of abusive relationships, ingrained toenails and jobs. Factor in the inevitable commitments of family and finances, plus the expected wear-and-tear of an aging human body, multiplied by the onset of cynicism and possible dementia, and we've got an equation that insists on expedient action.

Of course, there is no assurance that satisfaction will follow once you pursue your dream career, which brings us to the second aspect of a Real choice: the obscurity of consequence. If the contestant knew beforehand that inside the kahon was a bunch of bananas, he'll take the kuwarta option every time—but that wouldn't be much of a game show, now would it?

While it is ideal to do work in an industry and environment you are passionate about, this does not necessarily mean you're automatically a happy camper. The old adage is that we should always follow our heart. Unfortunately, hearts rarely have any brains (think of your last romance), so in essence, we are following morons. Well-intentioned morons, but morons nonetheless. So let's say you give up a career in Law for a shot at being the lead in Riverdance, which you've dreamed about ever since you were a young tyke in La Salle Greenhills. There you are, prancing in tights to the haunting melody of an Irish lute, considering how you're going to pay this month's rent and why your old classmates have stopped asking you to Friday night poker.

Whatever decision you come to, someone is not going to be satisfied. The third characteristic of the Real choice is that it affects lives. The ripples of your professional pebble will reverberate across the pond of your life. Without a doubt, your father will be upset if you choose a different career path. He may even sever his fi-

nancial support as threatened. And yes, that is as bad as it sounds.

But the primary life you should be concerned about is your own. How will this decision affect you? Is this really what you want out of life? Is it viable enough to sustain a standard of living? Will your children respect you? A father gets angry when his children do things which he feels will not be good for them—like God when he smote the Israelites for worshipping heathen idols. If you are able to convince yourself that the career you want is in your best interest, you will be able to convince your father. Perhaps not immediately, but eventually.

Work to live

The luckiest people alive are those who have either worked out or stumbled upon the winning lottery numbers to a satisfying career lifestyle. If you love what you do, it is called a PASSION. If it is work in an industry that is morally admired, it is called a VOCATION (if you were born into luxury and have no need for work, it is a VACATION). If you enjoy your work, then you are LIVING. If you enjoy your work AND get paid handsomely for it, then you are LIVING IT UP. If you love your work, AND it is socially accepted, AND it fattens up your bank account, AND it is morally admired... give me your phone number.

In conclusion, it is best for you to take a weekend away from family and school, apart from the distraction and pressure of normal life, somewhere remote like Alabang Hills. Imagine what your life might be like if you were to pursue your chosen career. Fantasize about the rewards, but likewise consider the consequences. If you open your eyes and you're still smiling, then it's a good bet that's what you should be doing. And if it's porn... give me your phone number.

E-mail author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com

Over P15 MILLION at stake

SHOP & WIN

P10,000 DAILY PRIZE
P175,000 MONTHLY PRIZE
P2 MILLION GRAND PRIZE

SM HYPERMARKET

Every P500 single purchase entitles you to join. Triple your chances of winning with every purchase of our sponsors' products!

See poster mechanics for details

PROMO PERIOD:
JAN. 22 to DEC. 31, 2005
Per D11-NCR Permit No. 3485 Series of 2004

January Winners:



February Winners:



Participating Sponsors:



JOB Market

WE WANT FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!

WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE!

More employment opportunities in today's

JOB Market

Where You Find The Best.